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The Maryland Yellowthroat

February 2024

Photo by Phil Davis

A White-faced Storm-Petrel, seen during a pelagic trip off the Maryland coast and remarkably captured on film by Phil Davis. One of many Maryland birding highlights of 2023, as Tyler Bell reminds us, beginning on page 22

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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Editor's Note

If it's February, it must be time again for the Yellowthroat's annual wrap-up of birding highlights. And, once again, Tyler Bell has stepped up to the plate and given us another wonderfully thorough and enthusiastic recap of 2023's most unusual sightings. Many thanks both to Tyler and to the intrepid birders whose accounts and photographs made Tyler's efforts possible. It's certainly easy to miss the Franklin's Gull amongst the gull flock and the LeConte's Sparrow skulking in the grass, so kudos to our 2023 birding highlight contributors, as they demonstrated the patience, skill, and presence of mind to find these unexpected birds in our midst, when many of us (speaking for myself, here) would have passed them by unnoticed.

This issue also features two articles focused on bird conservation. Pamela Tenner Kellett describes the Maryland Bird City initiative, in which communities are recognized for their efforts to promote bird-healthy environments. The Bird City Network is a national endeavor started by the American Bird Conservancy and Environment for the Americas. Communities belonging to the network have created protected bird habitat, addressed threats to birds, carried out public education programs, and promoted environmental sustainability. Currently, La Plata, Annapolis, and Salisbury are official Bird Cities, and after reading Pamela's account, you might conclude that your community should join them.

Meanwhile, Anne Lewis, the past president of Lights Out DC, gives us some ideas for adopting simple, inexpensive, and effective measures to reduce bird/glass collisions at our places of residence. Like Lights Out Baltimore and Lights Out Towson University (See Yellowthroat issues May, 2021, page 6, and November 2021, page 18, for descriptions of these programs), Lights Out DC is regularly monitoring bird/glass collisions on D.C. city streets and working to encourage local government and building landlords to address this issue downtown. We are grateful to both Anne and Pamela for taking the time to share their expertise with us.

Elsewhere, you will find updates on several MOS activities. We are informed once again of the latest conservation developments in the state, thanks to Robin Todd's expertise and constant efforts to keep abreast of the news. Gabriel Foley and Margaret Poethig usher in the last year of the Breeding Bird Atlas, in particular focusing on Somerset County. George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell summarize the YMOS Photo Big Day that raised over $1,000 (!) for the Maryland Biodiversity Project and remind us to support the annual YMOS Birdathon, which raises funds to send the YMOS teams to the World Series of Birding in New Jersey. Last year, you may remember, YMOS came in first place in all the categories (!), and we want to ensure that our young birders have the opportunity once again to demonstrate their amazing skills and energy. And, it was a festive occasion on October 14th at the Patuxent Research Refuge, as the Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center and Wisdom Trail were inaugurated, after years of planning. Marcia Watson shares the fun with us. When you visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center on the South Tract of the Refuge, be sure to check out the trail commemorating MOS icon Chan Robbins.

Erratum

In the printed version of the November 2023 issue, the cover photo of Common Terns was misattributed. The photographer was Kim Abplanalp.

President's corner, January 2024

Year-End Donations: Thank You!

In early December, we mailed to every MOS member a "holiday letter", signed by me, asking you to consider a year-end contribution to MOS. This request was well justified, as explained in the letter. I nevertheless worried that some would think we were joining the too many organizations soliciting donations non-stop, on paper, by phone, and by email or text. It does not appear to be the case: the amount of donations received by MOS went from very few in November to a lot in December. This spike could result from the holiday letter, or from your spontaneous generosity and holiday spirit. Regardless of the motivation, THANK YOU! I hope you had a nice holiday season, and wish you a very happy new year.

Are you Aware of the Work of the MOS Conservation Committee?

Bird Conservation was added to the MOS Mission Statement in 2020 and is now an important target of MOS but our means are limited. How can we try to save endangered birds? Protect their habitat and our own environment? Fight climate change? Search environmental justice? the best is to is ally ourselves with groups that have deeper pockets and more power and to express our views as loudly as we can. I would like to explain how this is done. Maybe you will want to join the effort?

This is the job of our Conservation Committee and its Chair, Robin Todd, its Conservation Chair Emeritus, Kurt Schwartz, and their expert colleagues, George Alderson and Colin Rees. They are tasked with constantly keeping themselves —and us— aware of new issues, drafting letters of protest or support, and reaching out to the relevant authorities. These experts are helped by their Committee members, including Gail Mackiernan, Mark Johnson and Wayne Bell, all who have a strong biology background. They also follow the bills being considered by the Maryland General Assembly, or by the Federal Government. The Committee is regularly solicited by advocacy groups asking us to join them in dealing with issues relevant to birds.

Let me here give you a few cases that the Committee has been involved in these past few months and how it works.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) is organizing a resolution to be submitted to the MD General Assembly: the RENEW Act (Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather). CCAN has asked MOS to sign on. When Robin receives such a request he shares all the information available with the Committee and asks its members whether they support the resolution or not. He then follows their recommendation. You can appreciate that the path followed is careful and sometimes arduous. Success is not guaranteed.

Robin also sends MailChimp alerts to the entire MOS membership, urging all to comment on particular issues to the relevant authorities. Please make a point of opening the MailChimp and, if you agree with the content, send your own comments. Your message can be quite brief, but is much more powerful if you speak in your own words. If we all sign the same message, the receiving authority considers all responses as only one comment.

Among other recent cases of importance to MD is the MAGLEV project, a rail link between D.C. and Baltimore that would inflict a lot of environmental damage along its proposed route. MAGLEV has recently been refused the required Water Quality Certification, which suggests that it is the end of the project. Success, we hope!

A letter signed recently would save many Horseshoe Crabs, whose eggs are critical food for the migrating Red Knots; MOS partners with the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition.

Another letter will oppose building sports facilities in Bacontown Russett Park, an area very close to Oxbow Preserve in Anne Arundel County. The effort to protect Oxbow Preserve has been championed by Jay Sheppard and Marcy Stutzman.

Some cases affect birds directly, such as a bill before Congress that has been noticed by Marcia Watson. This bill would allow farmers to “take” (including killing) Black Vultures, which the farmers suspect of attacking their livestock (typically calving cows and/or their newborn calves).

To summarize, the Committee's work is interesting and worthwhile; the needs are urgent. Why wouldn't you consider participating? You can write letters or emails or phone your representative. If you do, please let Robin know at robin.todd@mdbirds.org, or at 410-491-5333. Thank you!

Evelyn Ralston

President, MOS

NEWSFLASH.....

MOS has a new committee and new committee members! At its meeting in December, the board established an ad hoc Travel Committee. The Committee will flesh out policies, procedures and potential places to visit for birding trips. So far we have two members:

Maryanne Dolan, Chair (maryanne.dolan@gmail.com) and Sherry Tomlinson (stbirder@yahoo.com)

Want to join? Have some ideas? Suggestions? But no time to contribute? Contact either one of us. We want to hear from you!

Save the date!

2024 MOS Annual Convention planning has started!

Save the Date!! MOS will conduct its 76th annual convention at the **Grand Hotel** in **Ocean City**, Worcester County, Maryland, on **November 22 - 24, 2024** (the weekend before Thanksgiving).

We will update the convention website mosconvention.org shortly.The Pin Design Contest opens on May 1, 2024, and ends on September 1, 2024. Artists can submit their pin designs on the MOS website, as is done for the photo contest. More pin contest information and instructions for submission can be found on the MOS website: https://mdbirds.org/join/

annual-convention/convention-pin-contest/.

Volunteers are needed for finding sponsors and vendors, leading the pin design contest, leading the photo contest, staffing registration check-in, selling raffle tickets, and leading field trips. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to convention@mdbirds.org, giving your name, email address, phone number, and area of interest. All positions are well documented. We look forward to seeing you next November!

DID YOU KNOW?????

MOS has a variety of vacancies on committees and projects, some requiring only a few hours of work per year; others a bit more. Some center around a single event; others ongoing. Almost all can be done via Zoom. It's a chance to meet other MOS members and forge new friendships. Feeling a bit bored? Have some free time? Zap us a line. We can match your interest with a need.

Maryanne Dolan (maryanne.dolan@gmail.com)

John McKitterick (john.McKitterick@mdbirds.org)

Evelyn Ralston (Evelyn.Ralston@mdbirds.org)

CONSERVATION CORNER - FEBRUARY 2024

New Bridge at Swallow Falls could lead to Felling of Old Growth Trees.

The bridge across the Youghiogheny River at Swallow Falls state park, Garrett County is to be replaced. As currently planned by the Garrett County Public Works Department and approved by MD DNR, the new bridge would result in the felling of 2.4 acres of trees.These trees have diameters at breast height of 12 to 30 inches, and 11 are old growth trees with diameters at breast height of more than 30 inches (with circumferences of at least 94 inches). The iconic old growth hemlocks predate the arrival of European settlers. With less than 1% of the original old growth forest left standing in the eastern US, we cannot afford to lose any more, especially in a state park, which is also an Important Bird Area. The following Forest Interior Dwelling species occur here:

Alder Flycatcher, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler,Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler,Wood Thrush, Broad-winged Hawk,Brown Creeper

The reasons for not building the new bridge on the same site as the existing one, and thereby saving these magnificent trees, is to avoid having to close the road for the three months of construction. Road closures are inconvenient and can have public safety impacts. However, in this case, the argument that arrival times for police, fire and ambulance vehicles and school buses will increase because of the need to detour around the closed bridge, ignores the following facts. The current bridge is too narrow for fire trucks to use. There are always police vehicles on either side of the bridge. Finally, school buses do not now cross the bridge to pick up students. Proponents also note that the area of the felling will be replanted when the new bridge is complete. But it would be 200-300 years before these trees approach the majesty of those that are now there.

Garrett County activist Steve Storck, who lives nearby, provided me with much of the supporting information. Steve is leading his own efforts to save the Swallow Falls trees.

I have sent letters to Governor Moore, Lt. Governor Miller, and Garrett County Public Works Director Brian Moyer urging them to step in to save the trees. If any of you feel motivated, please call or write to these leaders. If you are a Garrett County resident, your message will be especially powerful. Their addresses are as follows: Governor Wes Moore and Lt Governor Aruna Miller

100 State Circle
Annapolis,

Maryland 21401-1925

Phone Gov. Moore (410) 974-3901, Lt Gov. Miller (410) 974-3901

Jay Moyer, Director Public Service Center
2008 Maryland Highway, Suite 2

Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

Phone *(301) 334-7488*

'Black Vulture Relief' Act would allow Livestock Owners to Kill Vultures

The oddly-named Black Vulture Relief Act would allow farmers to 'take' Black Vultures, which they suspect of attacking their livestock. Although primarily carrion eaters,

Black Vultures will occasionally attack and kill young or weakened livestock. There have been instances of newborn calves and calving cows being attacked and killed. Whal et al (2023) documents this, but it should be noted that it is based on surveys of livestock producers, not hard data. Black vultures have been steadily expanding their range north and west so that mid-Western farmers have begun to see them and have reported attacks on livestock. See the Audubon article at:
https://www.audubon.org/news/black-vultures-northward-expansion-creates-new-conflicts-farmers

Two Texan Congressmen (John Rose and Roger Williams) have sponsored the Black Vulture Relief Act of 2023, which would allow farmers to 'take' (i.e. capture, kill or disperse) any such birds known or suspected of attacking their animals. Livestock producers who 'took' Black Vultures would have to report these to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. More recently the Senate has gotten into the act with Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville and Cindy Hyde-Smith introducing a bill. (see the following link for some colorful background.
https://www.mullin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/mullin-leads-black-vulture-relief-act-to-protect-farmers-and-ranchers-from-burdensome-federal-overreach/

It seems reasonable to allow farmers to take actions against Black Vultures that attack their livestock. But, how will a farmer know which of these birds are killers? And this bill might open the door to killing other raptors, with the excuse being that of misidentification. And Turkey Vultures would probably suffer.

In my view, the grisly nature of vulture attacks, combined with the lobbying power of the livestock industry, make passage of this bill, in some form, likely. Therefore, I plan to write to our congressional representatives urging a more nuanced bill; requiring documented proof of vulture attacks and making killing these birds a last resort. I would appreciate any comments on this bill.

Whal, M. L. et al 2023. Livestock producers' perceptions of the American Black Vulture conflict in the midwestern United States. Wildlife Society Bulletin. 17:1-16

Proposal to Store CO2 beneath State forests.

Although the next topic will not directly birds, there could be large scale indirect impacts in the years to come. With those cautionary words, I ask that you read on and ponder what may happen to our Forest Service lands.

A rule proposed by the Forest Service would allow private industry to store CO2 beneath state forests. The aim is to store CO2, produced by power plants and like facilities, that would otherwise be vented into the atmosphere, deep underground. 'Sequestration' is the elegant term used to describe this process. Currently, this practice is forbidden, but the Forest Service, as part of the Biden-Harris aim to reduce domestic emissions of CO2 to zero by 2050, is now requesting an exemption to allow sequestration. The link to the FS announcement is:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/usda-forest-service-proposes-rule-facilitate-carbon-capture-and).

Although this type of project has an admirable intent, it comes with environmental downsides. The infrastructure required for underground storage is significant. Access roads, drilling pads, pipelines (for the CO2), pumping stations and power lines are all required.

CO2 capture and sequestration (sometimes referred to as CCS) is not allowed on Forest Service lands, but it is allowed on BLM lands. An example of such a project is the Snowy River project from Denbury LLC, in Carter County, southern Montana, gives some idea of the infrastructure required. CO2 is to be pumped deep down into porous rock formations strata, beneath impervious capping strata. The plan describes how it will seek to avoid harming birds, other wildlife, and the environment generally. Denbury would sequester CO2 beneath an area of up to 110,000 acres. It is an informative and sobering document. Denbury was acquired by ExxonMobil last year. The link to it is:

https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2026556/200564713/20086275/250092457/1_Snowy%20River%20CO2%20Sequestration%20Plan%20of%20Development_508.pdf

CO2 sequestration is an unproven technology. How certain are the drilling folk that sequestered CO2 stays sequestered? How safe is the transportation of the gas to the injection sites? There have already been cases of CO2 leaking from pipelines. In 2020, 45 people were hospitalized and 400 were evacuated from Satartia, MS, owing to such a leak. How much energy will be required for CCS, and will it be clean energy?

One major motivation for CCS is the federal tax subsidy (known as 45Q after a section of the tax code) which will provide $85 per ton of CO2 sequestered (from a refinery smokestack, or an oil or gas well). The subsidy for direct air capture (i.e. removal of CO2 from the air) is $180 per ton.

There will be more of these projects in the future. We need to decide what position, if any, MOS should take. I would appreciate hearing from any members on this matter (emails would be fine).

USP to Consider Synthetic Alternative to Horseshoe Crab Blood for Biomedical Testing

I will end on a piece of good news. For many years, horseshoe crab blood has been used to test biomedical

products for microbial contamination. This product, known as LAL (Limulus Amebocyte Lysate) is produced by bleeding captured crabs after they come ashore to breed along the Atlantic beaches in late May and early June. Crab mortality is estimated to be up to 30%. Surviving crabs are returned to the sea after bleeding, but they are weakened and their reproductive potential impaired. Late last year the US Pharmacopeia (USP) announced that it will formerly consider the use of rFC (recombinant factor C – a synthetic reagent) as an alternative to LAL. One pharmaceutical company (Ely Lilly) already uses rFC for testing its products. If approved and adopted by pharmaceutical companies, use of rFC will reduce the need to harvest blood from the crab, thereby allowing their population to recover. This in turn will result in greater numbers of horseshoe crab eggs for Red Knots and other migrating shore birds en route to their Arctic breeding grounds.

Enjoy the winter birding!

Robin G. Todd, MOS Conservation Chair

Robin.todd@mdbirds.org

YMOS NEWS – February 2024

YMOS Photo Big Day

Saturday, Dec. 9, YMOS birders held their fourth annual Photo Big Day to raise funds for an environmental cause. Armed with cell phones and cameras, students around the state photographed as many species collectively as they could in one day. The photos needed to be good enough that the bird was recognizable in the image. We were blessed with not only beautiful weather but a nice assemblage of birds.

Several of the students scouted species before the day. **The collective total was a record 131 species,** including several rarities such as Ross's Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Common Redpoll, Snow Bunting, and Saltmarsh Sparrow. This year, the over $1000 raised was donated to the **Maryland Biodiversity Project**.

Announcing the Annual YMOS Birdathon: March 16-17, 2024

The young birders in the Youth Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) will once again explore the shorelines, marshes, woods and fields of Maryland's Eastern Shore in quest of at least 100 bird species. The quest is anything but a "gimme" in mid-March on Delmarva, but you can be sure they will be up to the challenges posed by early waterfowl departures, very early spring migrants, and, oh yes, the weather (there are no rain dates!).

The annual YMOS Birdathon is the principal fundraiser to underwrite expenses for representing the MOS in the World Series of Birding (WSB), the world's foremost birding competition organized by New Jersey Audubon, in May.

Double-crested Cormorants Photo by Ada and Calla Clifton-Ryder

The youth invite your pledges of $0.25, $0.50, or $1.00 per species seen over their two days in the field as they travel as a group from Assateague to Kent Island.

In addition to the challenges posed by the weather and the birds, the youngsters construct an advance list of 100 "Must-See" species. Their final results require seeing two additional species to make up for any Must-See miss. Further, 90% of the participants must see or hear each species identified. Overcoming all these challenges requires planning and decision-making coupled with a high level of collaboration and sharing, a YMOS hallmark. And, lest we forget, it is still great fun!

Purple Sandpiper Photo by Roshan Vignarajah

The 2024 WSB cadre is turning out to be our largest one ever, with at least 26 participating students. YMOS will field an all-state high school team, a carbon-free team, two middle school teams, and two elementary teams. The students will scout areas of New Jersey in the week prior to the May 11 Big Day. MOS will also support an adult team this year, which is captained by ex-YMOS member Alex Wiebe.

You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing

George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) or Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu). Those who pledge will receive an advance copy of the Must-See list. After the Birdathon, you will receive a report of all species identified and the amount you owe based on the net species total after any penalty deductions for Must-See misses.

Thank you in advance for your encouragement of this remarkable group of youngsters and, of course, the parents and coaches who rise early and drive long hours to make it all happen. The continuing support of so many of you has made this remarkable experience available to so many students.

--George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell

radclifg@gmail.com

Introducing Bird City Maryland

by Pamela Tenner Kellett

Bird City Maryland is a four-year-old recognition program that is an initiative of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. Bird City Maryland encourages all communities (cities, counties, and campuses) to implement sound bird conservation practices. Our goal is to make communities healthier for birds and people. Our motto is **Celebrate! Educate! Motivate!** Bird City Maryland **celebrates** existing community actions, **educates** communities about issues and solutions, and **motivates** communities to act by completing actions in four categories: 1) create and protect habitat, 2) address threats to birds, 3) educate and engage people, and 4) promote sustainability. Communities can tell their stories and be recognized for their actions through their designation and online profile: https://birdcity.org/maryland Currently, Annapolis, La Plata and Salisbury are recognized as Bird Cities.

Bird City Maryland is modeled on the highly successful program Bird City Wisconsin, started in 2009. Wisconsin's program took inspiration from the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA. Maryland joins eight other states and Mexico and Columbia as part of the newly-launched (June 2023) Bird City Network: https://birdcity.org/. The Bird City Network is a joint endeavor between the American Bird Conservancy and Environment for the Americas. The Network unites and connects Bird City Programs throughout the hemisphere that are working with local communities to envision and complete Bird Friendly Actions. The Bird City Network is actively working to expand to all 50 states, as well as additional Latin American countries.

Maryland's program is unique as it is the only state to have a campus recognition program. Currently three campuses have been recognized: Washington College, Salisbury University and the College of Southern Maryland. Another unique feature found only in Maryland is our city "Signature Bird". Maryland communities choose a "signature" bird to represent their city. This bird can be either a migratory bird or a resident and is easily recognizable to community members as a bird that utilizes their community for part of its life cycle. Signature birds are a way for communities to educate and engage their members about the amazing and beautiful birds that rely on our state for critical nesting, stopover, or wintering habitat.

The Bird City Maryland logo was designed by Daria Parsa. It captures several aspects of Maryland and Bird Cities in a simple yet informative design. The Bird City logo has become a readily recognizable symbol of Maryland communities committed to providing a more sustainable future for the people and birds in their community and surrounding areas. The background colors symbolize the water (blue), land (green), and air habitats from the Atlantic coast to the mountains of western Maryland. The leaves represent the White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Maryland's state tree. Oak trees (genus *Quercus)* host more caterpillar species than any other tree genus and provide food and shelter for our native birds. Oaks and other native tree are vitally important in providing sufficient food resources to feed nestlings. The houses represent residential development, from small towns to our largest city, Baltimore. The goal of the Bird City program is to find a sustainable balance for communities, their people, and the

Introducing Bird City Maryland

Continued from Page 7

natural world. The Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) can be found throughout the entire state during the nesting season, from April through August. It occupies thick vegetation in wide range of habitats, from wetlands to grassland to pine forest. The Common Yellowthroat was one of the earliest species of birds to be described from the New World and was initially dubbed the Maryland Yellowthroat, since it was first found here.

While MOS members understand the importance of protecting birds and creating healthy urban habitat, many others need a little convincing. For those people, we offer the top 10 reasons to become a Bird City:

1. COMMUNITY PRIDE: Present the positive image that people want for the place where they live and conduct business.

2. CONSERVATION REPUTATION: Promote and grow your community's environmental reputation by participating in a state-wide conservation program and by displaying our beautiful Bird City Maryland signs in your community.

3. SAVE MONEY: Without birds, we would have to spend more money on pest control and keeping natural systems in balance

4. MAKE MONEY: In 2011, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimated that spending by birders generated more than $900 million in industry output,10,807 full-time jobs, and $88 million in tax revenue in the state of Maryland alone!

5. ECOSYSTEM HEALTH: Sustain healthy natural ecosystems by helping to maximize the number of native species in your community.

6. FAMILY AND EXERCISE: Birding and spending time in nature gets the whole family outside for fresh air, exercise, and relaxation!

7. UNDERSTAND NATURE: Birds teach us about the interconnectedness of humans and nature and show how vulnerable wildlife can be to human actions.

8. IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT: Managing green space to benefit birds not only creates better habitat for birds but also improves conditions for a host of other species...including people!

9. DO IT FOR PEOPLE: Build community spirit, foster new public-private sector partnerships, and make your community a nicer place to live.

10. DO IT FOR BIRDS: Conservation actions combat population declines in Maryland's birds and the other species that use the same habitats.

How does a community go about becoming a Bird City/Campus/County? The first step is to identify a team to complete the application. Community team members have several roles: **Community Engagement**– keeps an eye out for groups, organizations, and individuals that might be recruited as team members or local action-driven group. **Municipal Engagement**– works with/within local government to help teams understand and navigate laws and regulations, connect with officials and city staff. **Application Management** – gathers documentation from community partners about planned/completed projects, organizes paperwork, completes application and renewals **Content Production**– updates website information, posts events, tourism opportunities, manages users, often done by the same person(s) in charge of application management.

Bird Club members are critical to teams as they are well informed about atlasing, research, and monitoring in their region. Once a team has been formed, they will request and receive a log in to the Maryland website "back office." This is where the application is found. The recognition requires communities to complete 10 actions, three in the habitat creation and protection category, and at least one in the other three categories. Two actions that are required are that cities must pass a proclamation agreeing to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and must actively celebrate it annually. To become a High Flyer, the community must complete 20 actions with the following restriction: cities that officially support cat colonies, encourage feeding or housing for outdoor cats, support Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR), or explicitly permit free-roaming cats are not eligible for High Flyer status.

The application fee is $200 dollars, and renewal is every two years. Communities that are recognized receive a road sign with the Bird City/Campus logo, as well as a community page, which documents the community's achievements from their application and which has a separate tab for tourism and events. For electronic copy readers here is the link for our first Bird City: La Plata! https://birdcity.org/maryland/laplata

Maryland's program is continuing to grow. We want birders to not only appreciate and conserve rural habitat, but to actively visit urban areas that are committed to avian conservation. If you think your city, campus, or county would be a good candidate to become a Bird City please contact Pamela Kellett at coordinator@marylandbirds.org

Pamela Kellett is the part-time Bird City Maryland Coordinator.

MD-DC BBA3 Update, February 2024

By Gabriel Foley, Atlas Coordinator, and Margaret Poethig

The last year of the atlas is here!

During our first four years, we've spent 98,000 hours recording 905,000 breeding codes for 209 species. It's already an incredible achievement, but—and you know what I'm gonna say next—we aren't done yet.

About half the blocks are either complete or are missing just one completion target. But that still leaves half with two or more targets to reach! A fifth of blocks have none or only one target met (although a third of those are partial blocks).

Our strategy for the upcoming year focuses on precision: County Coordinators will be identifying specific needs for each block and pairing each need with a specific atlaser. For example, my block, Smithsburg SW, has 70 species and lots of Confirmations. However, it still has a few too many Possible species, and it needs nocturnal time. I'm missing owls, so a night owling will help there, and with a couple quick morning hikes up the Appalachian Trail I can upgrade Acadian Flycatcher and Wood Thrush. This simple plan is very achievable, but with a few hundred other achievable things, planning and teamwork across the state is important to make sure they're all accomplished. County Coordinators are working hard to pull it all together, but you can make their job a little easier by reaching out and letting them know you're keen to tick off a few block targets (https://ebird.org/atlasmddc/about/county-coordinators). Trust me, this makes a bigger difference than you think!

Two other things: first, we've made some adjustments to the block species targets. Now, you'll see that partial blocks have a target of 40 species (this target always existed, but until now it was never explicitly associated with any specific blocks). We've also lowered the target to 65 species for full blocks on the Eastern Shore. Of course, marking a block complete is still subject to the County Coordinator's approval. Second, I've upgraded the "strategy maps" (the maps that list what species were found in the block in prior atlases but haven't been coded in that block yet, available here: https://bit.ly/StrategyBlockMaps). Now, these maps also include a list of species that have been found in adjacent blocks, but haven't been coded yet in that block.

I'm excited for us to hit the milestone of a million breeding codes this summer, and I'm tremendously proud of what we have accomplished so far. So, let's keep the momentum rolling, and hear from our new Somerset County Coordinator...

As the newly appointed (and first) Somerset County Coordinator, my priority is to mobilize a large gaggle of volunteers and help focus everyone's effort. It's the only way we can meet the atlas targets in this final year. You may have already been recruited by me when we met chasing a rarity on the Eastern Shore. Or received an email because you once submitted a breeding code from Somerset. Or seen an announcement in one of the social media apps.

Going out to Somerset from Arlington, Virginia, where I live, I fell in love with the complex and mysterious landscape—and the birds! I know devoted atlasers on the Eastern Shore are working hard to finish up their counties, so I'm working to attract birders from the DC Metro and Baltimore areas (where the atlas is nearly complete) to spend a few days in Somerset. It doesn't take much to have an impact. In ten days, I logged 50 hours in 19 blocks and confirmed breeding for 45 species in Somerset. With enough volunteers, we can do this!

What do we need? (1) MOS bird club members from across the state to adopt a block or two; (2) birders with kayaks or boats or who are willing to charter one (much of Somerset County is accessible only by boat); (3) participants in block-busting events (two have been scheduled at Irish Grove, May 27 - May 29 and June 8–9, and two at Carey Run, June 1–2 and June 15–16); (4) permission from private landowners to bird on their property; (5) birders willing to atlas for the first time (we will teach you). Sign up by writing to me at Somerset@mdbirds.org.

– Margaret Poethig, Somerset County Coordinator

Red-tailed Hawk Nest with Two Nestlings, Somerset County. Photo by Margaret Poethig

Dedication of Chandler Robbins Outdoor Education Center and Wisdom Trail at South Tract

By Marcia Watson

On October 14, 2023, a long-held dream came true when Patuxent Research Refuge and the Friends of Patuxent hosted a dedication ceremony for the Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center and the Wisdom Trail, located near the National Wildlife Visitor Center on the South Tract of the Refuge. The event was the capstone for a Friends of Patuxent project that has been in the planning stages since the death in 2017 of Chan Robbins, the eminent Patuxent biologist. Attendees included colleagues, proteges, family, and friends of Chan Robbins as well as Refuge staff, members of the Friends of Patuxent, and members of MOS.

The project was designed as a memorial to Dr. Robbins that will keep his work alive and inspire others to walk in his footsteps. Two themes for the Outdoor Education Center and the Wisdom Trail are to inspire the public to promote, advocate for, preserve, and restore unbroken native habitats and ecosystems, and to get to know the birds in their area and share their observations by participating in community science activities.

Refuge Manager Jennifer Greiner kicked off the dedication ceremony by welcoming the assembled crowd to the event. Ms. Greiner said "Since my arrival at Patuxent three years ago, we've been working very hard to make this refuge more welcoming and inclusive for our local community. How fitting that this trail, named in honor of a man who loved to inspire others with his love of birding, can serve as an example of that by welcoming everyone - regardless of visual, hearing, or mobility impairment - to experience the sights and sounds of birds . . . We look forward to hosting nature programs in the pavilion that spark curiosity, a trait of Dr. Robbins throughout his 99-year life, and inspire our local community to connect with nature here in this forest setting."

Richard Dolesh, Chair of the Friends of Patuxent and a long-standing member of the MOS Conservation Committee, described the fundraising and planning that led up to the dedication and recognized the many volunteers who made the project possible. Rich touched on the importance of Chan Robbins' work at Patuxent, remarking "Chan was a legendary figure of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. His significant contributions were to more than just the research conducted at Patuxent. He touched birders and nature lovers literally around the

Jennifer Greiner, Refuge Manager, and
Rich Dolesh, chair of Friends of Patuxent

Photo by Marcia Watson

world. But he was more than a scientist, biologist, and expert ornithologist—in many ways, he was the ANIMATING SPIRIT of Patuxent. Chan Robbins touched the lives of every one of us who are here today. We are all so fortunate to have known him."

The ceremony continued with remarks by Dr. Matthew Perry, Scientist Emeritus at Patuxent and MOS member, who reviewed Chan's professional career and accomplishments. Dr. Perry recalled: "Chan's Golden Field Guide book, *Birds of North America*, had pictures of sonograms (graphic representations of bird songs) that he recorded from birds in the field. The publishers of the book did not want to include them in the book. Chan balked at publishing and they relented and published the sonogram pictures. Chan knew the value of sound in surveys so that the hard-to-see birds would not be underrepresented in the population estimates."

The assemblage was then treated to a talk by Jane Robbins, Chan's daughter. Jane shared remarks provided by her brother George Robbins, who unfortunately could not attend, and then gave her own lively rendition of what it was like to grow up in the household of Chan and his late wife Eleanor. Jane's reminiscences touched on the many scientific expeditions that were at the same time family trips, including outings at local streams and parks and of course, Patuxent Research Refuge, but also international adventures in Jamaica, East Africa, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Jane recalled banding birds with her father: "Dad patiently taught us how to cradle the restless captive, while easing the tangled mesh around the wings, over the head, past the feet. Offering a pencil to the cardinal kept fingers free of its fierce beak. We loved to release the

Dedication of Chandler Robbins Outdoor Education Center

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banded, measured bird. Dad placed it, belly up, on our hand, outdoors. And showed us the fun of slowly opening the hand. The bird lay calmly for a moment, unaware of its freedom, then sprang into the air, as we laughed, marveling at its beauty and strength."

Who was Chan Robbins?

Dr. Chandler S. Robbins (1918 -2017) was a world-famous ornithologist who was employed for most of his life at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He first came to Patuxent in 1943 as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and in 1945 was hired as a biologist at the Research Center. Even after his official retirement in 2005 at the age of 87, he continued to come into the office and work on projects until shortly before his death in 2017.

Chan was co-author, with his mentor Robert E. Stewart, of the seminal publication, *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (1958), which was based on data they collected over the previous 15 years. Chan was the lead author of the venerable *Birds of North America - A Guide to Field Identification* (aka the *Golden Guide*), published in 1966; the *Golden Guide* paved new ground with its use of range maps and sonograms of bird songs recorded by Chan himself. In his prolific research career, he authored approximately 160 scientific publications. He developed the protocols for the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Breeding Bird Atlas, and was known for his landmark studies on the effects of forest fragmentation and pesticides on birds, and for his work on bird migration using bird banding. His research activities took him all over the world.

In addition to his research career, Chan was deeply involved in the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) and his influence touched almost every part of MOS. He served as the third President of MOS, from 1952 to 1955, as well as in numerous other roles within the Society. Many of the current MOS Convention traditions have come to us through Chan's work as a key organizer of the early conventions. Chan and his wife Eleanor were staunch supporters of the MOS Sanctuaries and contributed to them, both financially and with physical labor. Notably, Chan was the Editor of the MOS scientific journal *Maryland Birdlife* from 1947 to 2014 – a span of 67 years! During much of that time, he also wrote the quarterly "Seasons" reports on bird populations in Maryland, and authored many other articles that appeared within the pages of *Birdlife*. He was, simply put, the leading authority on the birds of Maryland. He was generous with his time, leading local bird walks and always willing to answer questions about birds. His kindness in sharing his knowledge inspired a generation of amateur and professional ornithologists who followed him, and have left an indelible imprint on MOS.

Chan is best known to the general public as the person who banded Wisdom, the Laysan Albatross that nests on Midway Atoll, and that is widely considered to be the world's oldest living wild bird.

Chan's entire life and work are thoroughly documented in a memorial website assembled by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/robbins/index.cfm. His son George Robbins has written an engaging four-part biography published in the four issues of the year 2018 of the journal *New Hampshire Bird Records*, available to download from https://nhbirdrecords.org/nh-bird-records-pdfs/.

The crowd was then invited to "Let's take a walk," one of Chan's oft-repeated sayings, and moved onto the Wisdom Trail. The Trail features interactive educational displays that illustrate some of the key themes of Chan's life work. The Wisdom Trail is the first new trail established on South Tract since the opening of the National Wildlife Visitor Center in 1994 – almost thirty years ago. Importantly, the Wisdom Trail opens up access to an area of the Refuge's South Tract that was formerly closed to the public.

Jane Robbins at Wisdom Trail sign featuring a photo of Chan Robbins, "Let's go for a walk." Photo by Marcia Watson.

At a custom-designed metal sculpture of a dead tree with silhouettes of perched birds, Jay Sheppard, a biologist and member of the Friends of Patuxent planning committee, named the birds illustrated on the tree and talked about using size and shape as clues in bird identification. At a giant listening horn on a swivel post, Marcia Watson,

Dedication of Chandler Robbins Outdoor Education Center

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another biologist serving on the Friends' planning committee, talked about how Chan developed protocols to monitor bird populations using bird songs, and how Chan showed that dedicated amateurs could be trained to accurately identify songs and calls. Committee member and Friends' volunteer Ken Cohen showed off another interactive display along the Wisdom Trail, a swivel stand with a pair of high-powered binoculars, which visitors can aim at bird images that are strategically placed in the nearby trees, thus learning the skills needed to spot and identify birds. Jay, Marcia and Ken are all MOS members.

Why is it called the Wisdom Trail?

The name of the trail was inspired by what is arguably the world's most famous bird, a female Laysan Albatross that was named Wisdom after being banded by Chan Robbins in 1956 on Midway Atoll. It is believed that Wisdom hatched in 1951. Wisdom is still alive and reproducing, returning to her nest site each year. Now over 70 years old, Wisdom is widely regarded as the oldest living wild bird in the world. (https://www.fws.gov/story/2022-12/wisdom-worlds-oldest-known-wild-bird-returns-midway-atoll)

On another level, the Wisdom Trail at Patuxent reminds us of all the wisdom passed down to us from Dr. Robbins' long scientific career, in which he focused on the importance of preserving high quality, unfragmented habitat for breeding birds; avoiding pollution of our land and water with pesticides and other chemicals; preserving corridors for wildlife migration; and – importantly – getting outside to enjoy nature and learn from it.

The dedication ceremony continued at the Outdoor Education Center, an existing wooden pavilion that has been used for children's environmental education programming, but had fallen into disrepair and was in dire need of repairs. The pavilion has now been extensively renovated in preparation for its new role, thanks to the generous involvement of volunteers from the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA).

USA is a non-profit organization composed of AFL-CIO union members with an interest in hunting, fishing, or shooting. The organization's mission is to educate future generations of sportsmen, conserve healthy wildlife habitat, and volunteer their time and skills for projects that improve access to quality places to hunt, fish and shoot. The USA volunteers were a perfect fit to take on the work of renovating the Outdoor Education Center pavilion.

Through the USA's "Work Boots on the Ground" program, eight union volunteers from the Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District Council 51, and the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters used their skills to renovate and overhaul the decking and railings on the Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center in August 2023. In all, union volunteers donated 264 hours of labor, valued at nearly $14,000, to complete the project.

John Robillard, who is Chief of the Facilities and Equipment Branch, Infrastructure Management Division, National Wildlife Refuge System, US Fish and Wildlife Service, thanked the USA volunteers for the valuable work that they provided, and received a dedication plaque presented by USA for the pavilion.

USA volunteers at the restored Outdoor Education Center. Photo by Louise Krafft.

The fun then moved inside the Visitor Center, where USA volunteers worked with families and kids to build and paint bird houses, which they were able to take home. Milwaukee Tools supplied all the hammers and screwdrivers. Funds from the USA's Capital Area Conservation Dinner were used to purchase 100 birdhouses and the paint.

Funding for the construction of the Wisdom Trail and its displays was made possible by donations to the Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment Fund of the Friends of Patuxent. The Fund has received generous support from the Robbins family and other donors. Funding was also provided by the Refuge's budget allocation as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dedication of Chandler Robbins Outdoor Education Center

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The Friends invite additional donations to support future enhancements to the Wisdom Trail and the Outdoor Education Center, including accessibility upgrades for the trail and additional interpretive signage for the pavilion. Donations can be made online via the Friends of Patuxent website (https://friendsofpatuxent.org/donate); please select "Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment" from the drop-down box. If you prefer to send a check, please mail to Friends of Patuxent, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, Maryland 20708-4011, and indicate the "Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment" on your check.

Friends of Patuxent is designated as a Section 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. The Friends is a membership organization whose mission is to support research, wildlife conservation, and education at the Patuxent Research Refuge. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Sign at entrance to Wisdom Trail. Photo by Diana Ogilvie.

How to find the Outdoor Education Center and the Wisdom Trail

Visitors may visit the pavilion and trail whenever South Tract is open. Located near the National Wildlife Visitor Center and Lake Redington in a wooded area along the historic Old Telegraph Road (a public road prior to the establishment of the refuge) the Outdoor Education Center is ideally situated adjacent to forest, field, and wetland habitats, allowing for visitors to explore these diverse habitats.

The Wisdom Trail, a short loop of under a half-mile, starts at the west end of the Visitor Center parking lot, passing through a grove of pine trees near a post-and-rail fence, and then emerging in a field dotted with a couple of small ponds. The trail then continues into a deciduous woodland to reach the Outdoor Education Center. The Wisdom Trail continues past the Education Center onto the Old Telegraph Road, then crosses the entrance branch of Scarlet Tanager Loop where it connects to the Fire Road Trail that loops back to the parking lot.

Union Sportsmen's Alliance Volunteers

- Sam Phipps – Union Sportsmen's Alliance
- Patrick Wilby – Carpenters Local 177
- Lamar Mutts - Carpenters Local 177
- Ervin Jones - Carpenters Local 177
- Roxana Mejia – IUPAT DC 51
- Guillermo Martinez – IUPAT DC 51
- Adan Padilla - IUPAT DC 51
- Herbert Zaldivar - IUPAT DC 51
- Charles Parker - IUPAT DC 51

Dr. Chandler S. Robbins Memorial Endowment Fund Committee (Friends of Patuxent)

- Dr. Lowell Adams, biologist and Committee Chair
- Ken Cohen, past president, Prince George's Audubon Society
- Stephanie Everett, Refuge volunteer
- Timothy Parker, Refuge staff and Project Facilitator
- Dr. Matthew Perry, Scientist Emeritus, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
- George Robbins (Chan's son)
- Jane Robbins (Chan's daughter)
- Jay Sheppard, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist
- Dr. Marcia Watson, biologist and past president, Patuxent Bird Club

Please stop by and walk the Wisdom Trail the next time you are near South Tract, and use the opportunity to remember all of Chan's contributions. Maybe you can make a personal commitment to follow in his footsteps.

Will our love of glass cost us our birds?

By Anne Lewis

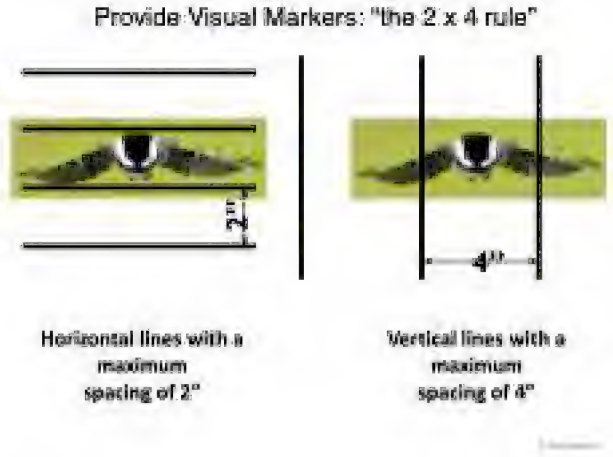
Many people have seen or heard the awful "thud" of a bird hitting glass. And though they find it distressing, most think of it as a sad accident that they can't do much about. That is changing now, as science has documented the extent of these collisions – and discovered ways we can prevent them.

Volunteer monitoring programs, such as *Lights Out Baltimore* and *Lights Out DC*, have been documenting these collisions in their downtown areas for more than a decade, and the numbers are staggering. Bird/glass collisions kill up to 1 billion birds every year in the US. In fact, next to cat attacks, glass kills more birds than any other non-native cause. These collisions contribute significantly to the estimated loss of nearly 3 billion breeding adult North American birds since 1970, or 29% of our bird populations. Yet the building industry continues to build glass buildings because we love the look of glass and the light and views that it provides.

Happily, we can have both our glass and our birds, thanks to work done by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and numerous other scientists and research organizations. After extensive field testing, ABC and others have identified effective techniques to prevent these collisions, including the use of bird-friendly glass as well as the provision of architectural features such as screens or louvers that shield the glass.

Most bird-friendly glass products use one of two treatments to make glass visible to birds: an ultraviolet coating (which most birds can see but humans can't), or a visible pattern on glass, such as small dots or thin lines that don't diminish our view. Through field tests, science has established a rule known as the "2 x 4 rule;" that is, any pattern with a gap of 2 inches or less horizontally, or 4 inches or less vertically will prevent most bird strikes. (Recent research now suggests a gap of 2 inches or less in both directions, because hummingbirds have been known to fly through a 4-inch gap, but the 2 x 4 rule is still considered the minimum standard.)

After field testing each product, ABC assigns it a "threat factor," between 0 and 100, based on how effective it is in deterring collisions. For example, clear glass and mirror have the highest threat factor of 100 (most hazardous), and a brick wall has the lowest threat factor of 0 (safe) .A product receiving a threat factor of 30 or less will prevent 50% of bird strikes and will be considered "bird-safe."


Provide Visual Markers: "the 2 x 4 rule"
Horizontal lines with a maximum spacing of 2"
Vertical lines with a maximum spacing of 4"

It's always less expensive to provide bird-safe glass during the initial construction of a building, rather than after the fact. But effective products do exist to retrofit existing buildings, including homes, and these products, too, are tested and rated by ABC.For these product evaluations, consult:

https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/products-database/?_paged=19

Effective products that the homeowner can install include the following:

·Traditional insect screens or mesh installed to the outside of the window with suctions cups or screws.

·Press-on dot patterns or stripes.These products are not commonly found in stores but can be obtained online:

Feather Friendly: This company offers several patterns of small dots on transfer tape that are easy to install. The dots come in light gray and black. Light gray is recommended for areas where reflections are a problem; black is recommended for "fly-through" areas where transparency is the issue. Their products can be ordered at www.featherfriendly.com

ABC Bird Tape: ABC bird tape is a durable translucent tape, available in ¾" stripes and 2" squares. It can be ordered at www.featherfriendly.com/abc-birdtape

·Individual UV reflective decals:

Mourning Doves don't see UV, so these products won't protect them, though they will protect most songbirds. Individual decals must be installed in accordance with the 2 x 4 rule:

Birds Eye View: Small, 4 inch square translucent decals with a crystal-like pattern.

www.duncraft.comorwww.windowalert.com

Will our love of glass cost us our birds

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Feather Friendly black dots

Window Alert: Window Alert sells UV decals in shapes like leaves and hawks.Hawk shapes are no more effective than other shapes; the birds don't recognize them in decal form, but the decals will work if installed close together. www.windowalert.com

Acopian Birdsavers, nicknamed "Zen Wind Curtains" (Acopian Birdsavers at www.birdsavers.com). These are hanging parachute cord assemblies. They are highly effective and can either be ordered online to your specifications online or made by the homeowner with parachute cord, available at Home Depot or other hardware supply stores. The parachute cord is hung from the top of the window at 4 intervals.

"Acopian BirdSavers offer a practical and effective way to reduce window kills. I recommend them wholeheartedly."
– Keith L. Bildstein, Ph. D.
Professional Ornithologist and Conservationist

Solyx Window Film:

Solyx offers six bird-friendly full-window films that are effective but might require a professional installer

To be effective, bird-safe treatments should be installed on the outside of the glass in order to diminish the reflective effect. Interior shades can be effective in some situations, but can often worsen the reflectivity, especially if the shades are solid and dark, creating a mirror. Analyzing the conditions of your window at different times of day before choosing a product will guide your decision as to what your particular hazards are. Also, not all your windows may need treatment. Generally, large expanses of glass, such as sliding glass doors, pose the greatest threat, though a small window that reflect trees can also be hazardous

Creative solutions are limitless. Some teachers encourage their students to paint the outside of their classroom windows with poster paint designs, to be cleaned off after the migration season ends. Small post-it notes can also be an effective temporary solution, and creative artists have created films that are often more attractive than the view itself!

A school project

Temporary post it notes

There is now great hope that with the many new laws being passed, scientifically proven solutions, a market for new products, and above all, a growing public awareness of the enormity of the problem, we can prevent tragic bird/glass collisions while still enjoying the many benefits of glass.

Maryland Birding Highlights, 2023

by Tyler Bell

First, the only new species added to the state list and already accepted by the records committee is **Great Kiskadee**, found in Frederick County on March 11! Tim Carney received one digital image by Mrs. Ann Onymous. Sadly, the bird was not relocated. Pretty sure that wasn't on anyone's radar and hasn't been on any of the three "Maryland's Next Ten Bird Species" compilations done in 2001, 2009 and 2020.

Of note was an unprecedented surge of **Ash-throated Flycatchers** into the mid-Atlantic in late fall. As reported in this review last year, there were two found statewide in 2022. In 2023, there were 10! Considering that there are 23 accepted records for ATFL in the MD database, this represents an almost 50% increase. First county records are numerous with this fallout and will be mentioned later, but here are all ten in chronological order of when they were first seen.

October 29, Cumberland Terminus, Allegany

November 8, Elk Neck State Park, Turkey Point, Cecil

November 10 - 16, Hallowing Point Park, Calvert

November 19, Assateague Island National Seashore, Bayside Point

November 22 - 29, Rockburn Branch Park, Howard

November 23 - 29, Susquehanna State Park, Harford

November 26, Flying Pig Farm, Caroline

December 12 - 31, North Point State Park, Baltimore

December 14 - 21, Port Tobacco River Park, Charles

December 22, Maxwell Hall Park, Charles

So, let's delve into first county records.

An unknown observer photographed a pair of **White Ibises** at a private residence in Garrett County on July 18. Unfortunately, they flew off shortly after being observed so no other birders were able to witness this first county record.

Eric Hansen found one of the earlier **Ash-throated Flycatchers** on October 29, in Allegany County, at the Cumberland Terminus. Sadly, it was a one-day wonder. Just in time for this article, Ben McGrew and Josh Heiser photographed a **Lapland Longspur** on Orleans Road on December 2. LALOs are not common in the panhandle but this seems overdue as a first county record. Nice find!

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Allegany County

Photo by Courtney Englar

Prone to vagrancy at almost any time of the year, Molly Dwyer found a first county record **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** in a pond in Hagerstown in Washington County on April 17.

The first state record **Great Kiskadee** is obviously a first county record for Frederick County.

Great Kiskadee, Frederick County

Photo by "Mrs. Anonymous"

Carroll County ticked two new county records in 2023. A male **Western Tanager** was found and photographed at a feeder on April 20 by Jessica Close. Then, on May 22, Geraldine King and Tom Feild found three **Red-necked Phalaropes** at Piney Run Park. Fortunately for county listers, either two or three birds were seen by many observers through May 23.

Maryland Birding Highlights, 2023

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Montgomery County scored two county firsts this year. Ryan Webb found a **Limpkin** at Pennyfield Lock on August 19. It was seen by many observers through September 11 and was much more cooperative than the 2021 Washington County bird, which stayed in hiding much of the time. On December 10, Dave Czaplak and Mary Ann Todd found a **Black-headed Gull** at Patton Farms. Presumably a long overdue bird for Montgomery?

Limpkin, Montgomery County

Photo by Ryan Webb

Howard County birders at Triadelphia Reservoir located a first county record **Black-legged Kittiwake** on November 11. It appears to constitute a second county record for adjacent Montgomery County. Nothing better than getting a twofer due to geography! Part of the bounteous movement of **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, Bonnie Ott located one on November 22 at Rockburn Branch Park. The bird showed well for birders through November 29.

Masonville Cove was the big winner in Baltimore County in 2023. A **Northern Lapwing** was located on February 7 by Andy Beiderman and remained at the site through February 18. Wendy Alexander scored photos of a **Vermilion Flycatcher**. It was, sadly, a single observer/one-day wonder.

Harford cashed in on the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** bonanza on November 23! Mark Johnson was sitting in his car scanning for raptors when an ATFL flew in right in front of him and landed 12 feet away! As is typical of Mark, he got excellent photos of this first county record.

Aaron Reb noted two **Hudsonian Godwits** flying with Greater Yellowlegs on October 2 while he was conducting the daily migration count at Turkey Point at Elk Neck State Park in Cecil County. Aaron struck gold again on November 8 with a first county record **Ash-throated Flycatcher.**

Two places to get rare species in Calvert County are Jim Stasz's back yard, and Mikey and Jo Anna Lutmerding's property not far away. As with Wendy Alexander's VEFL in Baltimore, Mikey's **Clay-colored Sparrow** on October 29 was a fleeting encounter, chased off by a Sharpie. Then, thanks to one of Mikey Lutmerding's daughters having a soccer game at the Hallowing Point sports complex on November 10, he was able to find yet another one of the many **Ash-throated Flycatchers** in Maryland, this time in Calvert County at Hallowing Point Park, about two miles away on the Patuxent River. Unlike the other birds, this one was quite difficult to see. It would remain hidden for large parts of the day, sometimes calling from deep in underbrush, then pop out briefly in a few locations. It remained at the park through November 16.

On December 14, Jim Stasz located an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Port Tobacco River Park three days in advance of the Port Tobacco Christmas Bird Count. Being a first county record, it would obviously be a new species for the count circle. It was only a Count Week bird, unfortunately. The bird was last seen on December 21.

Perhaps one of the best photobombs in Maryland: On September 3, Jan and Jerry Kiger, who had been camping at Patuxent Naval Air Station, in St. Mary's County, were standing on the beach at Cedar Point when a pair of **American Flamingoes** flew in from the south and landed in front of them! This is only the second record for Maryland. Despite a concerted effort to find the birds the next day, the results were futile. A single bird at Chincoteague was tauntingly close to the MD/VA state line but was never detected in Maryland. This was all part of a huge fallout of AMFLs in the wake of Hurricane Idalia which swept across the Yucatan Peninsula apparently dropping AMFLs across the US in its wake.

Maren Gimpel and Jennifer Rinehiemer found a **Harris's Sparrow** while counting in their sector of the Chesterville CBC in Kent County on January 1. The bird was quite cooperative and lingered through April 17!

Queen Anne's location fairly far north in the Chesapeake Bay would make it an unlikely location for pelagic species. Nonetheless, two of those were first county records this year. On February 26, Jonathan Irons uncharacteristically didn't have his camera with him as a **Razorbill** flew within 20 yards of his boat, heading north near Bloody Point, located off the southern tip of Kent Island, out in the main stem of the Bay! On June 15, Amy O'Donnell was also on a boat off of Bloody Point when she noted a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**. They are annual further south toward the mouth of the Potomac to the mouth of the Chesapeake, but up near the Bay bridge is really exceptional! Nearby on Kent Island, Hugh Vandervoort was birding at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center on August 23 when

Maryland Birding Highlights, 2023

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he found a **Roseate Spoonbill**. It was relocated on August 26 when both Hugh, and Mark Schilling saw it. Unfortunately, no other observers were able to see this bird. Perhaps it wandered from Poplar Island? It was not reported there on those dates.

Caroline County's first **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was found by Jan Willis and Steve Vaughn on November 26. Two observers, one-day wonder.

Jeff Effinger found a calling **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on Cummings Road in Talbot County on February 24. On June 28, Tim Carney had a **Roseate Spoonbill** fly in front of him while he was conducting a bird survey on Poplar Island. This location is a gold mine for rarities much like Hart-Miller Island further north.

Caleb Strand found a calling **Mourning Warbler** at Hurlock WWTP in Dorchester on August 23 for a first for the county, another one-day wonder. A more cooperative bird, seen by about a dozen birders, was a **LeConte's Sparrow** on Egypt Road found by Alicia and Jim Bachman, and Vince DeSanctis on November 11.

Wicomico played host to another of several **LeConte's Sparrows** found in Maryland this fall. Jonathan Irons found this bird on Nutters Neck at Nanticoke River WMA on November 6. He even recorded the bird chipping and giving flight calls sporadically! Only observed by one other birder a few hours later that same day.

Somerset played host to an enigmatic bird, a **Swallow-tailed Kite**, found by Margaret Poethig on May 29. Another single observer, one-day wonder.

Worcester County has 400 species observed listed on eBird. Long odds to score a new species, which they did not this year. Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties had no new records in 2023.

Noteworthy birds now in the current taxonomic nomenclature which, after the American Ornithological Society's decision on eponymous bird names, will surely shake things up in the near future.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have become more common in Maryland in recent years but they're still noteworthy because they're so random. Including the Washington County bird on April 17 mentioned above, there were only a few other reports. Three birds on Poplar Island in Talbot on May 18 seen by Amy O'Donnell and probably the same three birds a few miles away on May 19 found by Tim Carney at the Knapps Narrows Marina and two birds on July 1 in Queen Anne's County near Chestertown seen by Maren Gimpel.

Ross's Goose continues to be a rare bird in southern Maryland. A single bird was seen on March 17 and 18 in agricultural fields along Rt. 5 at Cornfield Harbor Road in southern St. Mary's County. On December 12, a Snow Goose was reported on Harry James Road. Jim Stasz relocated it on December 13 and it turned out to be a Ross's Goose, constituting a 4th county record. It was located during the Pt. Lookout CBC on December 16, a first for the count! Are both birds the same one just returning each winter?

Ben Springer and Bob Lukinic found a **Brant** on the Port Tobacco CBC on December 17. This is only the third record for Charles County.

A drake **Harlequin Duck** was found by Jelmer Peolstra and Rebecca Garonzik at Great Marsh Park in Dorchester County on January 1 and seen through January 3. Comparing images to a bird found in November 2022, it appears to be a different bird. A female Harlequin Duck was photographed at Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel County on December 23 by David Moring. It was not relocated. Harlequin Ducks are still exciting in the Chesapeake Bay, but not as noteworthy on the Atlantic coast, IMO.

St. Mary's County continues to be the Goldilocks Zone for **Barrow's Goldeneyes** in Maryland. The drake found on the Point Lookout CBC on December 17, 2022 by Scott Clark continued through January 28, 2023. Despite effort this year during the CBC and outside of CBC dates, it has not been relocated. The window of opportunity for BAGOs in the Chesapeake seems to end by late February.

Barrow's Goldeneye, St. Mary's County

Photo by Jim Ivett

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to be a records committee reviewable species in Maryland. The birds that were confirmed breeding in Clear Spring, Washington County, near the Ernst Market, continued this year. They were reported from February 27 by Jeff Culler and Joe Hanfman and were last reported on June 18 by Alex Pellegrini. In nearby Frederick County, a single bird was

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found in E. Eugene Myers Community Park by Evan Hull and David Smith on May 13 and continued through June 7.

A vagrant from the southwest, **White-winged Dove** was reported in two locations this year. Patty Craig and Jim Boxwell found one on Camp Brown Road in southern St. Mary's County while conducting the statewide May Count on May 13. Despite a concerted effort by local birders, it was not relocated. On October 24, Jonathan Irons and Jim Stasz photographed one at Assateague Island National Seashore at Bayside Point. The bird flew in from the east, circled once then headed northwest and was not relocated.

Vagrant hummingbirds have been virtually non-existent this year. Personal communication with Bruce Peterjohn, who specializes in banding hummingbirds in the mid-Atlantic, noted that almost all of the hummers reported this fall/winter have been Ruby-throated. A female **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded at a private residence in Calvert County in the fall of 2022. It continued into 2023 in January and February before departing. Personal communication with the homeowner this fall noted the bird had returned. Unclear if Bruce had been able to recapture it. To my knowledge, no other *Selasphorus* or other non-Ruby-throated species were reported in 2023.

Yellow Rails surely move through the state in small numbers but are rarely detected. Some incredible video was captured of one in northern Anne Arundel County at the Swan Creek Wetland, access by guided tour only, by Nick Cole on March 17. If you are on Facebook, click on this link to see the video:

https://www.facebook.com/reel/6070433999666479

Limpkins used to be uncommon and mostly limited to the Gulf Coast. Not so in the past few years. Ryan Webb photographed one bird at Pennyfield Lock, along the Potomac River, in Montgomery County, on August 19. The bird continued through September 11. Other Limpkins were reported as far north as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario, New York and northern New Jersey and as far west as Colorado.

Expected offshore or often viewable from the coast from Ocean City south along Assateague Island, a **Parasitic Jaeger** was noted by Dan Haas and Frode Jacobsen at Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel on September 23. This was surely a storm bird dropped out by Tropical Storm Ophelia which made landfall early that day in the southern Outer Banks of North Carolina. PAJA's bruiser of a cousin, South Polar Skua, was well photographed on a pelagic out of Cape May, NJ on September 10. There aren't many records for Maryland, and most of them were in the days before digital cameras had such amazing capabilities. Or were shooting film.

A second Cecil County record of **Sabine's Gull** was photographed by Aaron Reb at Turkey Point, Elk Neck State Park on September 25.

Dan Haas struck gold this summer at Sandy Point State Park. On August 24, Dan found a bedraggled **Franklin's Gull**. Typically, FRGUs are a one-day wonder or might linger for a few days. This bird hung around to completely molt flight feathers, staying until October 18!

Franklin's Gull, September, Anne Arundel County

Photo by Mark Linardi

The Same Franklin's Gull showing feather molt, October. Photo by Fred Shaffer

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The April Fool's Day 2022 **Heerman's Gull** found by Tom Crusse in Baltimore's Inner Harbor departed on May 5, but returned on September 4, 2022. It stayed through the winter and finally set sail on April 3, 2023.

The **California Gull** found in Chesapeake Beach in 2022 by Mikey Lutmerding almost certainly came across the Bay from Poplar Island in Talbot County. Tim Carney found one there on March 28. It continued sporadically through April 6.

A **Pacific Loon** was spotted on February 19 by Matt Hafner and Mikey Lutmerding from a pelagic boat leaving the Ocean City Inlet in Worcester County. Several birders were able to get to the inlet to see it. It continued through February 22.

White-faced Storm-Petrel is one of the most sought-after pelagic birds on the east coast. Lucky birders on a pelagic on August 12 were able to see three separate birds! On the same trip, but at multiple locations, were **Black-capped Petrels**, an increasingly frequent visitor to Maryland waters in the summer. Based solely on eBird checklists for that date, there were at least 23 birds seen! Almost outdone by, but not quite, was a pelagic out of Cape May that must have been barely in Worcester County waters on September 10 which tallied 21 birds.

A bird near the top of my Maryland wish list is **Magnificent Frigatebird**. Shanna McGinnis photographed one soaring over the beach near 85thStreet in Ocean City on July 5. Right place, right time.

Ryan Salsman photographed a **White-faced Ibis** at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Queen Anne's County on November 15, providing a first November record for Maryland. It was photographed early the next day but not relocated shortly after by other birders.

What is going on with **Roseate Spoonbills**?! Maryland's first record was a single bird in 1979 on Smith Island in Somerset County. The next, same location, single bird in 1996. Then, one in Ocean City in 2009. Three birds in 2018 in North Beach, Calvert County and occasionally in Anne Arundel airspace and at Jug Bay in Prince George's, one at Blackwater NWR in Dorchester County and another in Montgomery at Pennyfield Lock. In 2021, the floodgates burst. The MD-DC Records Committee database shows 11 accepted records in Baltimore, Frederick/Carroll, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot. In 2022, nothing?! Then this year, it went nuts again with records in Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot and Queen Anne's. It's hard to sort it all out, but it appears that there were at least seven birds. Will 2024 be a good year or a bad year?

Roseate Spoonbill, Prince George's County

Photo by Fred Shaffer

Say's Phoebe and **Vermilion Flycatcher** remain occasional statewide rarities. Nathan Simmons found a SAPH at the Millington WMA headquarters on April 10 and remained through April 19. This is the 8th state record. See my note above about the first Baltimore County record of Vermilion Flycatcher. Pending records committee acceptance, this will be the 7th state record. See also at the beginning of this report for **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and **Great Kiskadee.**

Say's Phoebe, Kent County Photo by Derek Hudgins

Loggerhead Shrikes are now quite rare. There were two reports on the Delmarva and none elsewhere. On May 5, Peter Smithson photographed one in Dorchester County. Nancy Martin and Walter Ellison photographed one well to the north of Peter's bird in Chestertown, Kent County on

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June 9. Possibly the same bird? On December 24, Tim Carney found a **Northern Shrike** in Garrett County, last seen on December 28.

On February 18, an Anonymous eBirder photographed a **Varied Thrush** near Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County. This is the 3rd eBird record, but the only records committee-accepted record for the county.

As discussed above in the first county records, Maren Gimpel's **Harris's Sparrow** in Kent County was the only HASP reported in Maryland in 2023. **LeConte's Sparrows** in Dorchester and Wicomico were first county records, but a third bird was found by Mark Johnson at Conquest Preserve in Queen Anne's on October 26. It remained until December 8.

LeConte's Sparrow, Queen Anne's County

Photo by Donna Wadsley

There were only a few reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** this year. The first was an adult male in Harford on January 22 in Joppatowne by Dave Ziolkowski. Presumably the same bird was photographed on March 26 at nearby Mariner Point Park. Jeanne Markowski photographed a female in Ellicott City, Howard County, on March 3. Dan Haas found a male while finishing up his CBC territory in West River, Anne Arundel County on December 17. Keith Costley located four **Brewer's Blackbirds** at Bauers Farm Road in Edgemere, Baltimore County on January 25. This is very near the location where he found them in January 2021. They continued there until March 31. George Poscover found them there again on November 18. They were reported through December 16.

The **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found by Marisa Rositol in October 2022 continued through April 15. Marisa relocated a BTYW, presumably the same bird, also at National Colonial Farm in Prince George's County, on October 9. It continued thru the end of the year.

Kim Abplanalp photographed a **Townsend's Warbler** found by campers on April 24 on Assateague Island, Worcester County. Sadly, a one-day wonder.

Townsend's Warbler,, Worcester County

Photo by Kim Abplanalp

A wrapping-up the rarities for 2023 is **Western Tanager**. There were three reports. A female found by a group of birders at Bayside on Assateague Island, Worcester on January 1 continued through January 4. Another female was photographed in Baltimore County by Eric Yeich on April 4. In Carroll County, a well described adult male at Jessica Close's feeder in Sykesville on April 20.

See you next year!

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Paddy Birds

Though I was busy last May at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) some 50 kms south of Manila and on the edge of Laguna de Bay, I managed to visit this 'hotspot' for birds with its 120 species of which 93 use over 200 hectares of a mosaic of different crop stages and a diversity of artificial wetland habitats. Happily, IRRI adopted integrated pest management to reduce pesticide application by 96% between 1993 and 2008 and to encourage richer natural biodiversity, including bird life. Many migrants spend the winter here before returning to their breeding grounds in the spring - highlighting the importance of rice fields in sustaining wildlife.

Only five species-- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Java Sparrow, and Scaly-breasted, White-breasted, and Black-headed Munias -- actually eat rice grains. The harm they inflict is debatable, and both sparrows are subject to research on this matter.

The Eurasian Tree Sparrow is considered the number one enemy by the rice farmer. As a highly adaptive species, it has taken advantage of human-modified habitat, frequently nesting within buildings or palm trees close to rice crops. To date, research shows that they cannot survive on rice grains alone, and that during the breeding season they require insects for protein – a boon to the farmer. In addition, the birds help farmers by preying upon weed seeds or insect pests threatening yield, thereby providing valuable ecosystem services.

The Java Sparrow, an introduced species to the Philippines, is often scared away from crops or trapped and caged as pets. Here, conservationists argue that numbers should be maintained to protect the species at the global level as they are considered 'vulnerable'; the farmers argue in favor of control. Further research will help determine the ecological and agricultural role of the species in the Philippines

Of the munias, the scaly-breasted and the chestnut (National Bird of the Philippines) are common residents, the white-bellied scarce. Management of these 'rice birds' varies according to habitat and season:"Bird Boys" who shoo away birds; exclusion netting; tapes placed over the rice plants; noisemakers and recordings; chemical repellents, usually chili extracts; decoy birds; use of flags, scare crows, or bird kites; and, eco-engineering, leaving the bigger birds to hunt naturally and without persecution.

Highlights of my visit included sight of white-throated and collared kingfishers, blue-tailed bee-eaters, oriental pratincole, greater painted snipe, and, white-breasted waterhen, as well as various swifts and swallows.

Colin Rees

CECIL COUNTY

The Bohemia River State Park held its first ever Bioblitz on November 17th. Approximately one hundred twenty seventh grade students from a local middle school were the participants. Cecil Bird Club members Cathy Carter, Sean McCandless, and Ken Drier manned the two stations that were related to birds in the blitz. It was a beautiful, warm fall day as the students rotated between the six different stations that were set up. Each group had a twenty minute stay at each of the six stations. Binoculars were available for the students to search for birds. One group was fortunate enough to see our country's national symbol, the Bald Eagle. How very cool.

Ken Drier was surprised when he received a Certificate of Appreciation from India for the eBird checklist documentation that he did while there in 2017 and 2018, as the information was used in a five year study of the State of India's Bird Population Project.

Ken Drier

Ireland Tour

This past summer my wife and I traveled to Ireland with some family members. This was not only going to be my first trip to Ireland, but this was my first trip to Europe! I was really looking forward to seeing and learning about new birds in a new land. This wasn't a birding tour we were going on, but it was a professional tour across the central and lower parts of Ireland, and I figured I would pick up some new species along the way. Learning new birds and new bird songs is always a challenge, but something I was really excited about. I even picked up a book called the Birds of Ireland, and I put in some serious study time with the book and eBird.

I can't talk about this trip to Ireland without telling this story. So the day came for us to leave... we woke up and had most of the day to finish packing and loading up the truck. I snuck in a few more minutes on eBird before leaving. I was wondering,"What would be my first bird in Ireland?" The excitement was building. Well... just before we were ready to leave, Colleen (my wife) checked the flight information, and to our surprise the flight was cancelled; things weren't starting out as we hoped or

planned. Our flight from Philadelphia to Dublin was canceled with no reason given. The best they could do was put us on a flight the following day, which would arrive in Paris; then from Paris we would catch a connecting flight to Dublin.

So the following day we started all over again, loaded up, checked the flight information, and made our way up to Philadelphia. All was well, but not really. This gigantic thunderstorm was arriving at Philadelphia right at our departure time. With flashes of lightning, the loud thunder claps, and the pouring rain seemingly never-ending, our flight was delayed. The thought that we would be canceled again loomed in our brains: Would we ever be able to see Ireland? An hour after we were supposed to leave, the storm wasn't letting up; however, they decided to start boarding our plane. Once the plane was boarded, they taxied us out to a spot near the runway and told us they were waiting for a break in the storm. Within 30 minutes of sitting on the tarmac, the storm seemed like it was starting to let up. Then, the pilot made the announcement that everyone wants to hear, "Prepare for takeoff!." Within minutes, we were up in the air and above it all. The trip to Paris had begun with no other issues other than the Charles de Gaulle Airport, but that is another story for another day (avoid at all costs).

By the end of the following day (the longest day of my life), we were sitting in the Dublin airport waiting for our van to pick us up, to catch us up with the rest of the tour group. By that night, we arrived in Galway and we got to meet everyone we would be spending the rest of the week with, and what a wonderful week it was.

Our tour stops and my birding areas included: Galway, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Castle, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Cork, Blarney Castle (yes I kissed the Blarney Stone), Kilkenny, Kilkenny Castle, and Saint Stephens Green, plus Trinity College in Dublin. I recommend all of these stops as a must-see! Ireland reminded me a lot of Newfoundland, friendly, beautiful and very, very, green.

I picked up 66 new species. I have so many favorites that I can't name just one, but I was really taken back by the amount of Corvids that were there. Of the Corvids, the Rooks and Jackdaws were the most entertaining. They seemed to be on every rooftop, in every town. It was as if they were there greeting you when you arrived and saying goodbye as you departed. The European Robin is smaller and more beautiful to see in real life than in photographs. Certainly one of the more striking plumage birds on the trip was the Common Chaffinch. Another beauty was the European Goldfinch. The one we observed in the attached photo was on the sidewalk in Galway. We enjoyed watching it gathering nesting materials.

It was difficult to say goodbye to such a beautiful place There are more color greens than my eyes have ever seen. When our plane took off and we started ascending up into the clouds, the green was still glowing all around. As I turned and looked at Colleen, she turned and looked at me and had the saddest look on her face. I said, don't worry. We will definitely be back.

Sean McCandless

Photos by Sean McCandless

Rook

European Goldfinch

European Robin

HOWARD COUNTY

Hawaii Birding

We (Toni and Bruce Evans), spent two weeks on the island of Oahu visiting our daughter and her family in November. With eBird as our guide, we worked our way around the island hotspots. Although we mostly saw introduced species, we were able to see the Oahu Elepaio and Oahu Amakihi on the Aiea Loop Trail in Keaiwa Heiau State Park, located in mountains above Pearl Harbor. Avian malaria has decimated endemic species at lower elevations, but mosquitoes aren't active higher up the mountains, and if you're very lucky you can see these Hawaiian specialties. We also ran into a wonderfully helpful birder named Bryan Shirota on the Loop trail. He put us in touch with local birding legend Richard May, who told us where to find the Bristle-thighed Curlew (back page photo), a winter migrant in the islands. Birders are the best! (The Evans are also members of Montgomery County)

Toni Evans.

Oahu Elepaio, Photo by Bruce Evans

Roaming in Rome

Mary Lou Clark and I travelled to visit former Columbia resident and still HCBC member, Sarah Romero, in The Eternal City (Rome) on September 13-28. After the red-eye flight, our first stop was at Parco Leonardo di Fiumicino. It was 3:00 a.m. for us (EDT), but our new time zone in Rome was 9:00 a.m. We didn't sleep much on the plane. We were told that to get acclimated to the time zone, we should not sleep until bedtime.

Our first stop was near the airport. We had 19 species of birds. Three were not new to us: Mallard, Northern Shoveler, and Common Snipe. The rest included lifers for us – Black-winged Stilt, Little Grebe, Common Greenshank, Common Kingfisher, and Western House-Martin, to name a few. After a wonderful lunch at an Organic Cafe and grocery shopping, we settled in at Sarah and Rick's apartment on U.S territory; they have government housing while Rick is stationed in Rome. After a little siesta, we

birded from the apartment balcony. We had Eurasian Collared Dove, Yellow-legged Gull (which are everywhere), Rose-ringed Parakeet (they are also very common and an introduced species), Hooded Crow, and European Goldfinch (this one counted, unlike the one at Mother Nature's in January, 2021).

Left to right: Mary Maxey, Sarah Romero, and Mary Clark Photo by Mary Maxey

Birding in Rome can be challenging since birds are still hunted in Italy. The birds thus tend to hide and are not very visible. The next day, we didn't have to go far from the apartment to see some good birds. One of Sarah's favorite places to bird is a short walk to a park called Villa Borghese. We saw 17 species of birds, including more Rose-ringed Parakeets and Monk Parakeets. We even found a Monk Parakeet nest! We were lucky to see Common Swift before they all migrated south. A few other highlights included Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Blue Tit, Great Tit, and Long-tailed Tit. Afterwards, our tour guide extraordinaire took us to her favorite art museum - Borghese Gallery and Museum, where we saw many marble art sculptures. Sarah had a great understanding and knowledge of the works of art from Bernini, Caravaggio, and Raphael. One of the most spectacular works of art by Bernini was "Rape of Proserpina," which is made of marble, where you can see the indentation of Pluto's fingers into Proserpina's side and the muscle definition on Pluto. The sculpture was executed between 1621 and 1622.

We usually traveled about an hour away from Rome to birding sites. Mostly, we went to wetland sites. We were fortunate to have Sarah's three years of experience birding in and around Rome. Sarah has a membership with World Wildlife Fund, which allowed us to visit three sites. Two of them she made a reservation to visit and was given a key to gain access. These sites had blinds for us to view the birds. We had a guide for the third site, which was in Tuscany, and observed the waterbirds from blinds. Some of the birds we saw included Great Crested Grebe, Greater Flamingo, Kentish Plover, Eurasian Spoonbill, Common

Pochard, and Eurasian Curlew.

We visited a grassland site - Ara della Regina - where the highlights were Lesser Kestrels, European Bee Eaters (in

Eurasian Spoonbill, Photo by Sarah Romero

Greater Flamingo, Photo by Sarah Romero

migration), Northern Wheatear, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, and Western Marsh Harrier. There were also archaeologists working the site of the largest temple in Etruria (400-390 BCE). The Milano University has been working on the site since 1982! Just about wherever you go in Rome, there are archaeologists excavating in this ancient city.

One of Sarah's favorite places to bird is a short walk to a park called Villa Borghese. We saw 17 species of birds, including more Rose-ringed Parakeets and Monk Parakeets. We even found a Monk Parakeet nest! We were lucky to see Common Swift before they all migrated south. A few other highlights included Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Blue Tit, Great Tit, and Long-tailed Tit. Afterwards, our tour guide extraordinaire took us to her favorite art museum - Borghese Gallery and Museum, where we saw many marble art sculptures. Sarah had a great understanding and knowledge of the works of art from Bernini, Caravaggio, and Raphael. One of the most spectacular works of art by Bernini was "Rape of Proserpina," which is made of marble, where you can see the indentation of Pluto's fingers into Proserpina's side and the muscle definition on Pluto. The sculpture was executed between 1621 and 1622.

Curlew Sandpiper, Photo by Sarah Romero

Another interesting site that we visited was LIPU (Italian League for Bird Protection). Sarah had been there before and knew the president.In the 1990s, the area was an open landfill site. In 1995, an Australian company proposed the construction of an oceanarium that would irreparably alter the ecosystem of the mouth of the Tiber. To oppose this proposal, the Ostia delegation of LIPU proposed the creation of a nature reserve. After the reclamation of the area, the oasis opened in 2001. This 20-hectare refuge with a pond in the middle creates habitat for birds and attracts photographers and birders. Some of the highlights include Little Grebe, Eurasian Moorhen, Common Ringed Plover, Spotted Redshank, and Common Greenshank.

While we were in the blind, the birds all got up out of the water. We looked up to see what spooked them, and it was an Osprey. Sarah took quick action and took several photos of the Osprey. It was a good thing, because on our way out we saw the president. He asked us if we saw it. It was the first time an Osprey had been spotted at that site. Sarah sent them a photo of the Osprey for their documentation.You can follow LIPU on Facebook and see the Osprey post -When panic strikes in Oasis... The FISHER HAWK (Pandion haliaetus) has arrived!

We birded everywhere, even in the city of Rome. We took the subway to the Colosseum and birded in and around there, as well as on our tour of Palatine Hill, the Forum, and from the best view of the city: atop the Monument to

Victor Emmanuel II. We even took our binoculars and had an eBird list while touring the gardens of the Vatican. Birds are everywhere. That is why it is so much fun to watch them.

Italy is divided into "states" as opposed to counties in eBird. Rome is in Lazio. We also traveled to Umbria, Tuscany, and another country – The Vatican, Vatican City (Holy See). We observed 114 species on 37 checklists in 15 days. Ninety birds were lifers for me. One lifer, according to eBird, was the European Starling! I suppose this was because I was in Europe. Another interesting fact is their Italian Sparrow looks just like our House Sparrow.

It was an amazing trip. It started off as a visit to see Sarah and ended up being mostly a birding trip with a little tour of Rome on the side. Sarah is a wonderful host and tour guide. She will be there until February 2025. Thank you so much, Sarah, for being such a wonderful host!

Mary Maxey

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Michael Bowen and Anne Cianni write that they spent a week in Southwest Florida in November 2023, birding in many places between Bradenton (Manatee County) and Naples (Collier County)."The weather was sunny and very warm (for which read HOT and HUMID), with highs reaching the upper 80's F. every day, which made birding conditions somewhat more taxing than usual in the fall. November 11 saw very heavy thunderstorms in the Naples area, welcomed by the locals, since there had been little rain this fall, but temporarily putting a stop to birding. The stand-out birding areas were The Celery Fields in Sarasota County (Gray-headed Swamphen, Limpkin, American Bittern, Wilson's Snipe, Anhinga, Black-bellied

American Bittern, Photo by Mike Bowen

Whistling-Duck) and Eagles Lakes Community Park in Collier County (Loggerhead Shrike, many Anhingas, Roseate Spoonbills, lots of herons including a "Great White Heron," a color phase of the Great Blue, and stunning dusk views of White Ibis returning to a roost tree).

We visited the latter park numerous times in search of a South American rarity, a Large-billed Tern which has been seen at intervals since the summer. We finally did see the bird on our last morning, just before returning from Fort Myers to DC. The visit to Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp was a mite disappointing, as low water caused by a prolonged drought kept water bird numbers down. Nevertheless, this was a great birding visit for water birds – the eBird trip report at https://ebird.org/tripreport/171163 contains lots of photos of waders seen at short range -- but was much less rewarding for passerines, as it seems that the fall migration heading south pretty much came to an end in October. Advice for Maryland birders thinking of heading for Florida in fall, 2024: don't wait until November to get down there!"

Gray-headed Swamphen, Photo by Mike Bowen

Jo Cox celebrated a mega birding year in 2023, seeing a total of 509 different species in one year."Almost half of these species were seen on a trip to Costa Rica in late February/early March. There were many highlights, of course the beautiful and abundant hummingbirds being one of them. Our trips along a couple of rivers and estuaries garnered a huge variety of herons, gulls, and shorebirds. I especially liked the Boat-billed Heron and the Bare-throated Tiger Heron; I loved their names too. The amazing lodges that we stayed at allowed us to see many species up close snacking on the delicious buffets that were laid out to attract birds, including close encounters with spectacular Scarlet Macaws.

My second trip, which was not really a birding trip (haha, we birders always say that), was to Scotland in June. We travelled north to the Orkney Islands, east to the Highlands and finished up in Perthshire. All three locations delivered wonderful birds. I particularly loved hearing the skylarks singing as they whirled around above us and the colorful and abundant oystercatchers on the Orkney Islands. The Ochil Hills in Perthshire provided the rolling hills favored by the re-introduced Red Kites, while Common Buzzards

and many grassland specialists were present too. Meanwhile, back in Maryland, I got nearly 200 species during my annual BBA3 forays, the Montgomery Park surveys, the MOS convention and hanging out with bird club friends."

Chris Wright

TALBOT COUNTY

Borneo, To the Other Side of The World for Nature, Culture and Adventure

On July 3, 2023 I returned from a trip to the state of Sabah in Borneo. The tour company was Tropical Birding; this tour was named Broadbills and Bristleheads, billed as a birding/ecological tour. There were six in our group; we had a main guide for the whole trip and three local guides as we moved from place to place. I was most excited about seeing Orangutans in the wild, as we were rewarded by a magnificent male on the first day out. The first and second lodges had canopy walkways from which we saw a number of birds including the Bornean Bristlehead and Black-and-yellow Broadbill. Many birds were feeding on a strangler fig vine with ripe fruit.

Stork-billed Kingfisher Photo by Bettye Maki

Our tour started in low tropical rainforest progressing to the mountainous region of Mt. Kinabalu which is a World Heritage site. Mt. Kinabalu is 13,435 feet high. Midway in our trip, our lodge was on the mighty Kinabatangan River, and we went out on a boat three times a day. The wildlife on the shores was spectacular, Orangutan, Proboscis Monkeys, langurs, macaques, and many birds including the magnificent hornbills.

White-crowned Hornbill, Photo by Bettye Maki

Sabah has many species of birds, and multiples of species familiar to us such as nine kingfishers and 18 woodpeckers, We did not see elephants as they had moved out of this area in their migration pattern.

I found the Malaysian people gentle and friendly; the crime rate is very low. The state of Sabah is modern and strives to be environmentally smart. The flights there took 29 hours with two three hour and one two-hour layover. After many hours on a plane, it was good to stretch my legs at a big, beautiful airport with fascinating people all around.

I hope you will be encouraged to visit Borneo on a future trip. Bettye Maki.

Great Argus Pheasant, Photo by Bettye Maki

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Bristle-thighed Curlew
Photo by Bruce Evans

MOS Calendar

Through 05/31/2024

Field Trips

Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

2/1	3 – 6 PM	Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader varies Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path, wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights.
2/3	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River – fields, wet woods, brushy areas Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
2/4	TBD	Big Pool/Ft. Frederick	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman (301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com) Description: Wintering birds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
2/4	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Serenity Ridge	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Frank Marenghi (frank_marenghi@hotmail.com) Description: Partnered habitat hike and birding walk through the trails of Serenity Ridge. Expect a variety of migrating fall birds, including raptors and sparrows. RSVP required.
2/4	8 – 11 AM	Loch Raven	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com Description: Loch Raven is a great place for winter waterfowl. On this trip, we'll start at Loch Raven Point, then visit other productive spots. Limit 12. RSVP required.
2/4	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com
2/4	8 AM – 4 PM	Ocean City Birding	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com,410-463-1669) Description: Wintering Birds. Meet at Ocean City Inlet for coastal birds; we'll also bird inland ponds and Assateague Island. Possible opportunity for Saturday birding. Date subject to change.
2/4	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mary Chetelat (443-564-6551) Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Please contact the walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
2/10	8 AM – 2 PM	Cape Henlopen SP	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Ellen Roche, 443-996-3955 or ellroche@gmail.com
2/11	8 – 11 AM	Lake Elkhorn Accessible Trip	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Debbie and Lou Taylor, 410-852-9807 Description: This peaceful lake in Howard County is a great place to view midwinter birds including a variety of Woodpeckers, Waterfowl, Sparrows, Hawks and maybe even a Brown Creeper.
2/11	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
2/13	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Park Ducks	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader: Maryanne Dolan (maryanne.dolan@gmail.com) Description: Seeking out winter waterfowl at Perryville Community Park and along the Susquehanna River. Bring scope if you have one. Meet at the parking area on the left just before you reach the circular drive to the park.
2/15	3 – 6 PM	Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader varies Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path, wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights.
2/16-18	Weekend	Ocean City	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Tom Humphrey (240-793-2508). Description: Weekend trip for waterfowl and wintering seabirds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
2/17	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) Description: two mile loop around area. Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at 7:30 am
2/17	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Dorchester County Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader, Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Choptank River and Blackwater NWR, for waterfowl, raptors, other winter residents. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt. 50 west of Salisbury at 7:30 am.
2/17	8 AM – 5:30 PM	Dorchester County Bird Hunt	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com,410-463-1669) Description: Waterfowl, Golden Eagle, Short-eared Owl, Rough-legged Hawk. Meet at the Visitor's Center in Cambridge, then head south to Blackwater NWR and Shorter's Wharf. Bring a lunch and money for dinner and plenty of warm clothing.
2/17	8 AM – 12 PM	Gull Boot Camp	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Fred Shaffer, 443-926-6457 or glaucousgull@verizon.net

2/17	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Ben Poscover, 410-905-8961 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Please contact the walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
2/18	8 AM – 12 PM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, 301-254-0188m jcollatz@aol.com
2/24	8 – 11 AM	North Beach and Herrington Harbor	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
3/2	7 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Middle Creek, PA	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
3/2	TBD	Audrey Carroll	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Riley Metcalfe Description: Woodcock
3/3	7 AM – 12 PM	Mill Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Jeff Ettinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Maintenance and birding. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am or meet at Mill Creek at 7:20 am
3/3	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Russell Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com. Description: Water fowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Meet at west end parking lot.
3/3	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com
3/3	8 AM – 12 PM	North County Regional Park	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leaders Robin Lahnemann and Debby Bennett Description: Meet at parking lot at end of drive.
3/5	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Park Ducks	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (maryanne.dolan@gmail.com) Description: A half-day of seeking out winter waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
3/6	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mary Chetelat (443-564-6551) Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Please contact the walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
3/9	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Blackwater NWR	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, hawks, lingering shorebirds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at NWR at 7:15 am.
3/9	8 AM – 12 PM	Fair Hill Covered Bridge Area	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: The place to be for spring warblers. In addition to the usual suspects, expect to find orioles, woodpeckers, flycatchers and an eagle or two.
3/9	9 AM – 12 PM	Trip Leading Workshop: Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Alyssia Church and Libby Errickson, hawksaucebirding@gmail.com Description: Learn tips on how to effectively point out birds and help everyone see them, manage large groups of birders of varying skill levels, and attend to the individual needs of your group members. Limit 12, RSVP required.
3/10	8 – 10:30 AM	YMBC Walk: Lois Y. Green Conservation Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Mentors: Andy Martin and Bob Cantilli. Description: There is a mix of habitats with forest birds and two ponds for waterfowl.
3/10	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Richard Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Water fowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Meet at west end parking lot.
3/10	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
3/12	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Park Ducks	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (maryanne.dolan@gmail.com) Description: A half-day of seeking out winter waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
3/16 – 17	All Day	YMOS Birdathon	Contact: (George Radcliffe,radclifg@gmail.com,410-463-1669) Description: YMOS fund-raiser for World Series of Birding as MOS members pledge per species found. Sat - Ocean City to Cambridge; Sun - Cambridge to Bay Bridge
3/16	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 Description: Continuing survey. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to March 23. Please contact leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
3/17	7 AM – 12 PM	Adkins Arboretum	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com) Description: Forest Birds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am or meet at parking area by Lake Tuckahoe at 7:30 am.
3/17	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Dave Ziolkowski, djziolkowski@yahoo.com Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Meet at west end parking lot.
3/17	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Pat & Juanita Tate, 410-615-5133 or jpt8@earthlink.net
3/17	8 – 11 AM	Serenity Ridge	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Frank Marenghi (frank_marenghi@hotmail.com) Description: Partnered habitat hike and birding walk through the trails of Serenity Ridge. Expect a variety of birds, including raptors and sparrows. RSVP required.
3/17	TBD	Chesapeake Environmental Center	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-843-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com. Description: Waterfowl and shorebirds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.

3/20	9 – 11:30 AM	Belmont Manor Historic Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leaders Cathy Hallam and Val Swan (valnjeff55@gmail.com). Description: Beginning Birder Field Trip. Slow pace through fields, along woods edges, and around a pond. Parking lot on the right, near the barn. Facilities available. Boots recommended. Limit 12; registration required.
3/23	6:30 AM – 5 PM	Bombay Hook	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, early migrants. Leave Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at Visitor's Center at 8 am.
3/23	7:3- AM – 2 PM	Birding at the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Focusing on year-round and early returning songbirds. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks.
3/23	8 – 11:30 AM	Howard County Conservancy	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Bonnie Ott, sparrowdamsel@gmail.com Description: Over a dozen varieties of sparrows may be here this time of year as well as many types of Woodpeckers. RSVP required
3/23	8 – 11:30 AM	Lapidum Boat Launch	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader is Gene Scarpulla (301-787-9362; ejscarp@comcast.net) Description: Join us for a morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species.
3/23	8 AM – 12 PM	Fisherman's Wharf, Conowingo Dam	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (maryanne.dolan@gmail.com) Description: A Cecil Bird Club tradition – the Heritage Trail Wildflower Walk, Join bird club members to view the spectacular array of wildflowers and search for early migrants.
3/23	9 AM – 12 PM	Allegany County Waterfowl walk	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com to register. Meet at the Rocky Gap State Park main beach area. We will look for waterfowl then move on to the Mason Road Pond and end at the C&O Canal Terminus.
3/24	8 – 11 AM	Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Lani Hyde, 412-812-2425 Description: Open fields and woods, and through a couple of ankle-deep stream crossings, so waterproof boots are recommended.
3/24	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader TBD. Description: Waterfowl expected, woodland trails for passerines. Meet at west end parking lot.
3/27	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Piney Orchard Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Wendy Crowe
3/30	8 AM – 12 PM	Sharps at Waterford Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com. Description: Moderate walking over diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of the walk. Meet at the farm parking area, through the barns on the right.
3/31	7 AM – 12 PM	Mills of Eastern Talbot	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Wayne Bell (410-253-1663 or wbell2@washcoll.edu) Description: Early migrants, lingering winter birds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am.
3/31	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com. Description: waterfowl expected, woodland trails for passerines. Meet at west end parking lot.
4/3	8 AM – 12 PM	Walk at Gibson Island	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Linda Vitchock, 410-901-7555, or lindabvit@hotmail.com Description: Must pre-register.
4/3	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mary Chetelat (443-564-6551) Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Please contact the walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
4/6	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Bear Swamp	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Bobbie Wells (410-924-2568 or wellsbk@yahoo.com) Description: Early migrants, field birds. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot 7 am.
4/6	7:30 – 11 AM	Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Walk the trails of this county park for woodpeckers, sparrows, turkey, and waterfowl.
4/6	8 AM – 12 PM	Mill Stream Creek	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leaders Priscilla Mileski & Friends. Description: Bird walk followed by tour of Priscilla's Happy Lady Aviary.
4/6	TBD	C&O Canal at Lander Road to Point of Rocks	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369 or kathybrown07@verizon.net. Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/6	TBD	Alpha Ridge Landfill	Host: Howard County Bird Club Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com. Description: Vesper Sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels and other open country birds expected. Reservations and carpooling required. Leader will provide meeting time and location upon registration.
4/7	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com
4/9	8 – 11 AM	Belmont Manor Historic Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com. Description: A walk around the fields looking for early migrants. Special guest Mike Bowen used to work at the property and will be able to show us around and tell stories about the history of this location.
4/12	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Christian, 301-873-3814 or achristian328@comcast.

4/13	7 AM – 6 PM	Eastern Shore Migrant Search	Contact: (George Radcliffe,radclifg@gmail.com,410-463-1669) Description: Search for early migrants on the Eastern Shore: Nassawango Creek, Elliott Island Rd, Blackwater Refuge
4/13	8 – 11:30 AM	Wildflowers and Birds at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219), and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Enjoy spring wildflowers and migrant and resident bird species. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.
4/13	8 AM – 12 PM	Wakefield Valley Golf Course in Carroll County	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Jeff Marx jmarx@mcdaniel.edu Description: Year-round resident birds as well as some early migrants, including swallows, warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Fenby Farm Road.
4/13	8 AM – 12 PM	Fair Hill	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: Fair Hill NRMA is a prime spot for spring migrants. Meet at South Appleton Road parking lot SOUTH of Rt. 273, not the bobolink area.
4/13	9 AM – 12 PM	Garrett County Ponds	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com to register. Description: We'll visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Little Meadows Lake and New Germany State Park. Meet at the Finzel Swamp parking area.
4/13	TBD	Antietam National Battlefield	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Jeff Smith, 240-291-1892 or jefsmith78@gmail.com Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/14	7 AM – 12 PM	Mill Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Jeff Ettinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Maintenance and birding. Breakfast to follow. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am or meet at Mill Creek at 7:20 am
4/14	8 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
4/17	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Conquest Preserve	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Adele Clagett, 410-212-2652 or adele@birding.pictures
4/18	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fort Frederick SP	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leaders: Bruce and Linda Field Description: Meet at 7:30 am at CMV lot off Rt. 65. Call 391-991-9174 if you plan to attend.
4/19 – 21	All Day	Irish Grove Work Weekend	This year's activities will include trail maintenance, structure maintenance, and house cleaning/upkeep, and, of course, BIRDING. Contact Jeremy Castle: jeremy.castle@mdbirds.org for any questions or to sign up.
4/20	7 – 11 AM	Walk at Swan Creek Wetlands	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567, thrushhost@gmail.com
4/20	8 – 11 AM	Mt. Pleasant Farm – Howard County Conservancy	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com. Description: Earth Day Walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Meet at parking lot near the barn.
4/20	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 Description: Continuing survey. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to April 27. Please contact leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
4/20	8 AM – 12 PM	Morgan Run South	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: John White jwgroovin@yahoo.com Description: An ideal area to explore during spring migration. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane.
4/20	TBD	Fred Archibald	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com. Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/21	7 AM – 12 PM	Duval Farms	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com) Description: Field and forest birds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am.
4/21	7:30 AM – 2 PM	Annual Nassawango Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Search for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and other migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. Meet at Schumaker Park parking lot.
4/21	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, 301-254-0188 or jcollatz@aol.com
4/21	8 – 11 AM	Wyman Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Libby Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com Description: Expect to see a variety of migrants. Meet at the Remington Ave. Bridge above Wyman Park Drive. Canceled in bad weather. RSVP required.
4/23	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com Description: First in a series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
4/24	TBD	Tom's Creek	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Mike Spurrier, 240-446-0305 or mspurrier819@aol.com. Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/26	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Patterson Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com

4/27	8 – 11 AM	Oregon Ridge Habitat Hike	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Marty Brazeau, tropicbirder56@gmail.com or 410-440-1128 Description: Search for migrating birds, examine the ecology of the birds and detrimental impact of logging. Meet at Nature Center parking lot.
4/27	8 AM – 12 PM	Elk Neck State Forest	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: Migrating passerines are plentiful during spring and fall migration. Breeding birds include at-risk species. Meet in the gravel parking lot on the left as you enter.
4/27	9 AM – 12 PM	Project Clean Stream/Earth Day Cleanup at Pelot Sanctuary	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Wear proper clothing and work gloves and if you can, bring some trash bags.
4/27	All Day	C&O Canal and Antietam Battlefield in Washington County	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Scott Hodgdon scotthodgdon@msn.com Description: Walk on the C&O Canal tow path for early warblers, woodland birds and maybe some water fowl. Bring a lunch if planning to do all day and we will go to Antietam Battlefield. Meet at Snyders Landing parking lot, 17028 Snyders Landing Rd.
4/27	TBD	Baker Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Riley Metcalfe, rileydmetcalfe@gmail.com. Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/28	6 AM – 4 PM	Susquehanna State Park Migrant Search	Contact: (George Radcliffe,radclifg@gmail.com,410-463-1669) Description: Migrant search at Susquehanna State Park in conjunction with Harford Bird Club.
4/28	8 AM – 12 PM	Ride/Walk at Patuxent NWR North Tract	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com
4/28	All Day	Bombay Hook	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, early arriving shorebirds. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at Visitor's Center at 8 am.
4/30	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Peter Lev, plev@comcsat.net Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
5/1	7 AM – 1 PM	Walk at Susquehanna State Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
5/1	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mary Chetelat (443-564-6551) Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Please contact the walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
5/2	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Taylor's Landing	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leaders: Cheryl and Michael Saylor. Description: Meet in parking lot. Call 301-302-6517 if you plan to attend.
5/3	8 – 11 AM	Mullinix Mill Road	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Mary Prowell, boprow@aol.com. Description: Expect the usual woodland birds with any number of migrants passing through. Meet at the parking lot on Mullinix Mill Road (39.29474N, 77.14541W) .
5/4	7 – 10 AM	Birding by Boat: Jug Bay	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Alex Pellegrini, agpell.work@gmail.com Description: Join us aboard our Pontoon boat to explore areas you can't reach on foot. If luck is on your side, you might even get a close-up look at the elusive Sora rail in hand. Min. 10 participants; max. 15. Cost $12/person.
5/4	8 – 11 AM	Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com. Description: Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Park in the first parking lot on the right.
5/4	8 AM – 12 PM	Bear Branch Nature Center in Carroll County	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Jeff Marx jmarx@mcdaniel.edu Description: We will be looking for vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and flycatchers. Meet in the parking lot at the Nature Center building.
5/4	8 AM – 12 PM	Fair Hill Bobolink Field	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: 100 acres of grassland as preserved habitat for ground-nesting birds to benefit Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Northern Bobwhite. Meet at Parking Lot #3 (2895 Appleton Road).
5/4	9 AM – 12 PM	Chesapeake Environmental Center	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Field trip either May 4 or 5.
5/5	TBD	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Gary Ladner, 973-610-3749 or garyladner57@gmail.com. Description: Half-day trip for migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/5	TBD	Susquehanna SP	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders Bettye Maki (248-225-0724 or bjmaki04@gmail.com) and Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Migrants, Cerulean Warbler. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 am or meet at the Rock Run Mill parking area.
5/7 – 10	All Day	Magee Marsh	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Bettye Maki (248-225-0724 or bjmaki04@gmail.com) Description: Multi-day trip for spring migrations. Block of rooms reserved. Deadline to register is April 15.
5/7	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).

5/8	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com
5/8	TBD	Manahan Road	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/9	8 – 11 AM	Orioles at Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com or 443-834-8413 Description: An excellent place to see/hear Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. Meet at the Willow Grove parking lot.
5/10	9 – 11 AM	Mill Run Camp Ground	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club, Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com to register. Bill Blauvelt is point person. Description: Meet at the parking area at the Campground near the end of Mill Run Road (off the Friendsville Addison Road) north of Friendsville.
5/11	All Day	World Series of Birding at Cape May	Contact: (George Radcliffe,radclifg@gmail.com,410-463-1669) Description: Student Competition
5/12	8 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
5/14	8 AM – 2 PM	Howard County Conservancy Big Sit	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: Unofficial Big Sit at the Skywatch. We will look for flyovers and look and listen to surrounding birds. No need to sign up, just show up. Canceled in the event of heavy rain.
5/14	TBD	Yankauer's Nature Preserve	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Mike Spurrier, 240-446-0305 or mspurrier819@aol.com. Description:Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/14	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
5/15	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Oxbow Lake	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jay Sheppard, 301-318-6318 or jaymsheppard95@gmail.com OR Marcy Stutzman, marciastutzman@netscape.net
5/18	7:30 AM – 2 PM	Birding at Nanticoke Wildlife Management Area	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net Description: birding hot spot known for healthy populations of Red-headed Woodpeckers and Northern Bobwhite.
5/18	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 Description: Continuing survey. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to March 23. Please contact leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance and any changes to the walk schedule.
5/18	8 AM – 12 PM	Piney Run Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Scott Hodgdon scotthodgdon@msn.com Description: We should see some migratory water fowl, woodpeckers and lots of woodland birds. Meet at the parking lot by the tennis courts. Please RSVP to leader.
5/18	8 AM – 12 PM	Susquehanna SP Mill Area	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: Susquehanna SP is well known for its rich diversity of bird life, with over 215 species reported. It is the place to be for spring warblers. Meet at the Mill area. Limited parking, car pooling recommended.
5/18	TBD	Gambrill Watershed and Sand Flat	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-843-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for starting time and location.
5/19	6 AM – 12 PM	Millington WMA	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Susan Henyon (suehenyon@rocketmail.com) Description: Migrants, Cerulean Warblers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 am or meet at Millington HQ at 7 am.
5/19	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, 301-254-0188 or jcollatz@aol.com
5/19	8 – 11 AM	Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Lisa Colangelo, lcolangelo@verizon.net. Description: Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Use the parking lot to the left of the Gary Arthur Senior Center (2400 MD-97, Cooksville).
5/19	TBD	Libertytown Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/21	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Matthew Black, matthewblack66@yahoo.com Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
5/23	7 AM – 6 PM	Bombay Hook and Dupont Nature Center	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
5/25	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Patapsco Scrubland	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Felicia Lovelett, c5nest@gmail.com. Description: Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species and may continue into the woods. Meet at 735 River Road (up long drive, take right-hand split and park by house.)
5/25	8 AM – 12 PM	Krimgold Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Matthew Hodgdon mhodgdon@msn.com Description: We hope to see sparrows, swallows and Horned Larks. Meet at the last parking lot by the pavilion. RSVP to Matthew.
5/25	9 AM – 12 PM	C&O Canal, Oldtown to Spring Gap	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club, Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com to register. Bill Blauvelt is the point person. Description: Meet at the parking area at the C&O Canal at Oldtown MD.

5/26	All Day	Hot Spots for Red Knots	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net. Description: The tentative itinerary is Bombay Hook NWR, Dupont Nature Center, Slaughter Beach, and the Broadkill impoundment at Prime Hook NWR. Limit 12 in 4 cars. Carpooling mandatory. Reservations required.
5/26	All Day	Delaware Coast	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Jeff Ettinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Shorebirds, Marsh Sparrows, many others. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 am.

Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

2/1	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Member's Night	Hood College
2/6	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	Zoom Meeting	Virtual
2/7	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker: John White, Bird Photography for Beginners	Carroll Nonprofit Center
2/8	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Kurt Schwarz will speak on Miles and Miles of Texas Hill Country and Big Bend	Robinson Nature Center
2/13	7 – 8:30 PM	Board Baltimore Bird Club	While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate	Virtual
2/14	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Gulls of North America, presented by Fred Shaffer	Virtual
2/17	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Members' favorite bird photos	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
2/21	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Cheryl Hogue will speak on Birds of Texas	Potomac Presbyterian Church
2/26	7 – 9 PM	Tri-County Bird Club	"Winds of Change: Offshore Wind and Maryland's Clean Energy Future" presented by Dave Wilson, Maryland Development Manager for US Wind.	Salisbury Animal Health Lab
2/27	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Ryan Hagerty of NCTC will talk to us about the Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
3/1	6 – 8 PM	Harford Bird Club	Presenters: Harford Bird Club youth columnists and YMOS members on YMOS and the World Series of Birding.	Churchville Presbyterian Church
3/2	10 AM – 12 PM	MOS Board Meeting	MOS Board Meeting	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
3/5	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Tiny Travelers: Saw-whet Owls of Maryland by Melissa Boyle Acuti	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
3/6	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Irvine Speaker will speak on Back from the Brink, Return of the Bluebirds.	Carroll Nonprofit Center
3/7	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Gabriel Foley will speak on "One Year to Go: Prepping for the Final Year of BBA3"	Hood College
3/12	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Program TBA. Zoom link available at https://patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-3/	Virtual
3/12	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Gene Scarpulla will speak on "Poplar Island, Its History and a Survey of its Resident Bees." Business meeting will follow.	Easton YMCA
3/16	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA.	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
3/21	7 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Clive Harris will speak on Shorebird ID	Potomac Presbyterian Church
3/25	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Spring Jewels - IDing Warblers in Migration" presented by Wayne Klockner	Salisbury Animal Health Lab
3/26	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Gabriel Foley will give us an update on the Breeding Bird Atlas	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
4/2	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Spring Warbler Workshop conducted by Wayne Klockner	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
4/2	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
4/3	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker: TBD	Carroll Nonprofit Center
4/4	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Jim McCann will speak on "Dragonflies and Damselflies"	Hood College
4/9	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Program TBA. Zoom link available at https://patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-3/	Virtual
4/16	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Walter Ellison will speak on "An Overview of Bird Migration." Business meeting will follow, including election of new officers.	Easton YMCA

4/17	7 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Dianna Loescher will speak on Montgomery Parks' Bird Community Index Project	Potomac Presbyterian Church
4/20	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA.	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
4/22	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Gardening for Birds: How to Enhance Your Backyard Habitat" presented by Tyler Walston, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.	Salisbury Animal Health Lab
4/30	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	The Saylors and Drawbaughs will talk on their recent trip to Peru	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
5/1	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker: TBD	Carroll Nonprofit Center
5/2	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Kathy Shollenberger will speak on "If you Care About Birds, Create Habitat"	Hood College
5/3	6 – 8 PM	Harford Bird Club	Program TBA.	Harford Glen
5/6	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project, World Series of Birding	Virtual
5/7	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Around the World Filming Birds by Marty Brazeau	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
5/8	7 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Annual May Social	Woodend
5/14	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Program TBA. Zoom link available at https://patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-3/	Virtual
5/18	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Rich Downs will speak on Plans for Year 5 of our MD & DC Breeding Atlas work in Caroline County.	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
5/20	6 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Brazil: the Pantanal to the Amazon Forest" presented by club member and former president, Mike Walsh.	Salisbury Animal Health Lab
5/25	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
5/28	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Member's Night. Members will share photos and stories.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center

Seasonal Counts

Baltimore Carbon Free Earth Day Count	Coordinators Mirat Shah and Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com	4/22
Dorchester Spring Count	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	5/4
Fred Archibald Sanctuary Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net.	5/4
Allegany County May Count	Contact Mark Eanes at mdeanes@atlanticbb.net	5/11
Anne Arundel County May Count	Contact Steve Sheffield, srsheffield@comcast.net	5/11
Baltimore County May Count	Contact Elizabeth Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com	5/11
Caroline County May Count	Go to Caroline County web site or Facebook page, or contact Debby Bennett.	5/11
Carroll County May Count	Contact Scott Hodgdon, 4430279-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com	5/11
Charles County May Count	Contact Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com	5/11
Dorchester May Count	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	5/11
Frederick County May Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net.	5/11
Garrett County May Count	Contact Duane Bailey at dbailey3@earthlink.net.	5/11
Howard County May Count	Contact Chuck Stirrat, stirrcr1@gmail.com	5/11
Prince Georges County May Count	Contact Matthew Felperin, mattyfelp@gmail.com	5/11
St. Mary's County May Count	Contact J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.org	5/11
Washington County May Count	Contact Mark Abdy 301-5731301..	5/11
Wicomico County May Count	Compiler Ellen Lawler, emlawler534@comcast.net	5/11
Worcester County May Count	Compiler Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com	5/11
Audrey Carroll Sanctuary Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net.	5/12
Calvert County May Count	Contact Sherman Suter, sgermansuter@gmail.com or 703 362 8953.	5/12
Somerset County Count	Compiler Pat Valdata, pvaldata1@gmail.com	5/12
Talbot County May Count	Contact Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgkettere@gmail.com)	5/12